

## ● Thatcher hope ● Foot appeal ● Steel warning



The last day: Mrs Thatcher, Mr Foot and Mr Steel as they ended their campaigns yesterday.

## Labour defiant as Tories head for landslide victory

● The Conservatives are still heading for a landslide victory but Mrs Thatcher's target of half the popular vote seems unlikely to be achieved.  
● The Cabinet "think-tank", set up by Mr Edward Heath 13 years ago, faces extinction if Mrs Thatcher is returned.  
● Mr Francis Pym, Foreign Secretary, accused the Labour Party of deliberately ignoring the EEC issue because it was a vote-loser (page 5)

● The biggest and noisiest demonstration of Mrs Thatcher's campaign tour provoked her into revealing her contempt for the Labour Party.  
● The rift in Liberal/SDP defence policy was confirmed when Dr David Owen said an Alliance government would use Polaris.  
● The Prime Minister endorsed a bitter attack made on proportional representation by Mr Michael Foot at the Labour press conference (page 4)

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Britain's one-month election campaign ended last night with the Conservative Party apparently as certain as when it began to secure an overwhelming majority over the Labour Party in the new Parliament.

The Conservative leader, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, seeking a second parliamentary term as Prime Minister, confided to *The Times* that she would "clearly" have a majority of votes to confirm the Government's authority. No party has achieved that since 1935.

But Mrs Thatcher seemed certain to be disappointed in that hope, if in no other, when the polls close at 10 o'clock tonight and the first projection of the national outcome is broadcast. The strong showing of the Liberals and the Social Democratic Party, in electoral alliance, for whose candidates a quarter of Britain's 42.5 million voters seemed up to last night prepared to vote, puts out of reach the target of 50 per cent of the popular vote.

But that same Alliance strength, by eating into the Labour Party's natural base, offers Mrs Thatcher's Conservatives a bigger majority of parliamentary seats than any party has enjoyed since the Second World War.

No such outcome was contemplated yesterday by the Labour Party and its leader, Mr Michael Foot, who at his last campaign press conference at Westminster said Labour was out to win and bravely forecast a "very fine result".

The campaign in the constituencies, especially the marginals, showed the Labour vote increasing, he said. It was a different election there to the one being fought in the newspapers and by the opinion polls.

In private no Labour Party figures of stature believed in victory last night. But they did maintain that the apparent surge of the Alliance parties, as recorded by the opinion polls in the last two weeks, had been arrested. Mr David Hughes, Labour's national agent, said they had evidence of differences between Liberal and SDP supporters in the marginals, with Liberal voters deserting Social Democrat for Labour candidates to keep Conservatives out.

At Ebbw Vale in his Blaenau Gwent constituency, Mr Foot made his last campaign speech, warning voters that under a new Tory government the National Health Service would become "a fond but distant memory" and that billions would be spent keeping a fifth of the workforce on the dole.

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, in a series of meetings in the Borders towns, gave warning against "the arrogance of power" of a Conservative government with a swollen majority.

Mr Foot denied a report in yesterday's *Times* that there was any "significant difference" between the Liberals and the Social Democrats on the future role of the deterrent. Mr Jenkins had said on Tuesday that an Alliance government could maintain "our independent deterrent for a substantial period ahead" - in spite of Mr Steel's announcement, last December, that the two parties had agreed that there would be no "independent use" of Polaris.

Earlier, at their daily press conference, Mr Roy Jenkins and Mr David Steel denied a report in yesterday's *Times* that there was any "significant difference" between the Liberals and the Social Democrats on the future role of the deterrent. Mr Jenkins had said on Tuesday that an Alliance government could maintain "our independent deterrent for a substantial period ahead" - in spite of Mr Steel's announcement, last December, that the two parties had agreed that there would be no "independent use" of Polaris.

## Protest provokes Tory contempt

By Philip Webster

Mrs Margaret Thatcher yesterday faced the biggest and noisiest demonstration of her election campaign tour and was provoked into revealing her utter contempt for the Labour Party.

As about 300 protesters carrying Labour banners tried to shout her down during an open-air speech in Wiltshire, Mrs Thatcher turned on them angrily and exclaimed: "How pathetic the party you support. How pathetic you are." It was by far her most bitter outburst of the campaign.

The demonstration came in the unlikely setting of the marketplace at Salisbury where Mrs Thatcher had been greeted by a crowd of about 1,000.

As Mrs Thatcher listed the reasons for voting Conservative, hecklers interrupted her many times. She condemned the campaign tactics of other parties whom she said were "running totally false scares because they dare not debate their own manifestos or the true issues."

At that the protest reached a climax and Mrs Thatcher replied: "Now stand there shouting because you have no arguments. How pathetic the party you support. How pathetic you are. Just standing there shouting and with banners because you have not got any arguments left."

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## 'Think tank' may be killed

By Peter Hennessy

There is a strong possibility that Mrs Margaret Thatcher, if she wins today, will disband the Central Policy Review Staff, the Cabinet's "think tank", as part of post-election changes in the geology and geography of Whitehall.

She believes the unit, invented by Mr Edward Heath 13 years ago, has lost its way and outlived its usefulness. One of its functions, that of long-term strategic analysis, could be transferred to a new planning staff which would form part of an enlarged Prime Minister's office.

Other accretions in No 10 would include the Rayner unit, the eight-member efficiency team founded by Lord Rayner, chairman of Marks and Spencer now housed in the Management and Personnel Office (MPO).

The MPO will almost certainly disappear, the bulk of its work and staff amalgamating with the Treasury while its security role and the Civil Service commission, Whitehall's recruitment agency, will remain under the Cabinet Office umbrella.

Other possible changes that will be considered by Mrs Thatcher when reconstructing her cabinet include the demise of the Department of Industry.

Despite substantial preparatory work on options for change by her advisers Mrs Thatcher has yet, in the words of an insider, "to think these things through, you cannot be sure that anything will happen at all."

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## Spanish firm to claim salvage on Harrier jet

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

The Spanish company Naviera Garcia-Mila is to make a salvage claim on the £7m Royal Navy Harrier jump jet which made a forced landing on one of its ships off Portugal.

Under normal salvage procedure a settlement is negotiated before the recovered craft is returned to its owner. In this case it is not clear whether Garcia-Mila will keep the Harrier before setting with the British Defence Ministry.

A lawyer representing the company was scheduled to fly to the Canary Islands last night to be on hand for the arrival today of the Alraigo, the 2,300-tonne cargo ship on which the Harrier pilot landed after failing to locate his carrier, HMS Illustrious.

A spokesman for the ship owners also claimed that a bomb had fallen off the jet and bounced across the deck as the aircraft set down on a cluster of containers just forward of the bridge on Monday evening 120 miles south-west of Oporto. The bomb did not explode, but it frightened members of the ship's crew, he said.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman, when questioned about the Spanish Government's attitude regarding a possible salvage claim, expressed surprise and said he would have to consult with his superiors.

Both the Foreign Ministry and a shipping company spokesman admitted that the case was unprecedented, and said the outcome would be interesting regardless of the amount of compensation, if any, which is eventually paid.

Sub-lieutenant Ian Watson, aged 25, said in telephone conversations from the Alraigo

that when he picked up the freighter on his radar he had fuel for only six more minutes, and referring to the ill-fated "I could not find Mother."

With just one minute of fuel left, he decided to make a forced landing on the deck of the Spanish vessel.

Captain Aitor Suso Solinaza said in a telephone interview broadcast by a Spanish radio network: "We were surprised and frightened when we saw a warplane fully loaded with bombs make several passes over our ship and then flying alongside at the same speed. A few seconds later, the plane set down on the ship."

The Ministry of Defence in London was still seeking information last night about the bomb which was reported to have been dislodged from the Sea Harrier, Rodney Cowton writes.

In naval flying circles, however, there was considerable doubt that it would prove to have been a bomb at all. If, as Sub-Lieutenant Watson has said, he was on a reconnaissance mission, it is unlikely that he would have been carrying bombs.

Military aircraft carry under their wings or fuselage disposable fuel tanks and on a reconnaissance mission the Sea Harrier would have been carrying a pod containing photographic equipment. To the unaided eye either of these might be mistaken for a bomb.

It is thought that if he were carrying bombs the pilot would almost certainly have jettisoned them before attempting such a precarious landing.

Pilot's ordeal, Ministry bill, page 10

## BTR wins control of Tilling in £660m bid

By Our Financial Staff

Britain's largest company takeover bid ended last night as BTR, an engineering and energy group, won control of Thomas Tilling in a £660m deal.

The victory put the market value of the combined group among Britain's top 10 companies.

Tilling, a conglomerate with a patchy profit record, owns businesses which include Pretty Polly tights and Heineemann publishers. It has fought the bid since it was launched two months ago.

Mr Francis Black, Tilling's finance director, said last night: "I don't believe shareholders have done the right thing by accepting the bid. But we did make BTR pay £200m more than it intended."

BTR now controls 58 per cent of the Tilling shares and will be meeting the Tilling board today.

The takeover was one of the

most acrimonious fights the City has seen. Hundreds of thousands of pounds were spent on newspaper advertising to woo big City investors. But the result was still a cliffhanger.

Under City rules a result had to be declared by 3.30 yesterday afternoon. On Tuesday evening it still looked wide open.

Even the influential Prudential Corporation, which owns 2½ per cent of Tilling, failed to swing others when it rejected the offer on Tuesday.

Mr Owen Green, BTR's chief executive, attacked the insurance companies last night for abrogating their responsibilities.

The combined group will now be valued in the stock market at £1.8bn. It will put BTR, whose profits just five years ago were £29.7m, up among names such as Barclays, Grand Metropolitan and BAT Industries.

Business News, page 21

## A great evening's tennis on the eve of Wimbledon

at the David Lloyd Slazenger Racquet Club 17 June 1983

- ★ Top Professionals and Show Business Celebrities ★
- ★ Guest Umpires and Judges ★
- ★ Champagne Supper ★
- ★ A Souvenir video tape of your battle with the stars ★
- ★ Celebrity Raffle with prizes including 2 tickets for the Orient Express, the centre court at Wimbledon and a weekend at Champney's health farm ★

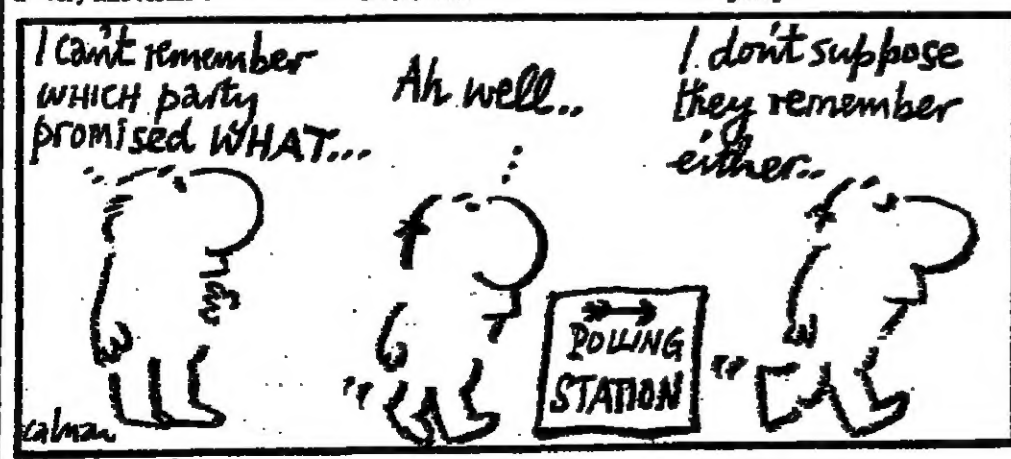
On Friday next week, a team of tennis professionals, including Vijay Amritraj, Roscoe Tanner, Gene Mayer, Peter Fleming, Buster Mottram and David Lloyd, are giving up their time to play in the Binatone Pro-Celebrity Tennis Tournament against a team of celebrities which includes Kevin Keegan, James Hunt, Jodi Shekter, Trevor Eve, Desmond Lynham, JPR Williams and Peter Jay.

Tennis enthusiasts will have the chance to challenge one of the stars. And as an added bonus you will have a video tape of your match to keep as a souvenir - so bring along your tennis kit.

Or simply watch the tournament of a lifetime from the grandstand and enjoy the atmosphere of this very special event.

For ticket reservations now, phone Lucinda Sturges on 01-602 6626. Tickets also available from Central London branches of Keith Prowse.

**Binatone Pro-Celebrity Tennis Tournament**  
in aid of Muscular Dystrophy Duchenne Appeal



## Prince of Wales highlights farm dilemma

By a Staff Reporter

Landowners receive "an embarrassing" amount of advice about managing their property, the Prince of Wales said yesterday. His experience as the owner of much of Dartmoor through the Duchy of Cornwall suggested that the national park authority there was not in full control of decision-making for the area.

Farmers who were told to conserve the countryside were sometimes simultaneously advised by the Ministry of Agriculture to take "action based entirely on arriving at an economically viable unit which disregards altogether any sympathetic consideration for the surroundings".

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## Start talks resume in Geneva

## US seeks missile flexibility

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

President Reagan announced yesterday a flexible new US position at the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START) in Geneva, aimed at overcoming what he described as Soviet intransigence in the negotiations.

In a statement coinciding with the resumption of the talks, the President said that he had dropped his earlier insistence that the two super powers should limit their deployed ballistic missiles to 850 each. That is not acceptable to the Soviet Union, which has proposed a limit of 1,800 missiles and strategic bombers each.

Mr Reagan did not disclose the proposed new upper limit, but a senior Administration official said that it would be

between 850 and 1,450 deployed missiles.

The President maintained his other proposal to limit nuclear warheads to 5,000 each, a reduction of about one third.

The new approach is based on recommendations by the commission on strategic forces, chaired by General Brent Scowcroft, which called for emphasis to be placed on verifiable reductions of warheads rather than missiles.

The official said that the United States proposal on missile limits would not be announced publicly so that both sides in the secret negotiations could have flexibility.

The change is designed to lead America and Russia away from building multi-warhead missiles - to less threatening single-warhead missiles.

GENEVA: "I've been given a lot more latitude", General Edward Rowny, the US delegation leader, said on arrival yesterday for the resumed talks. "I'm a little more hopeful than previously."

General Rowny said the US team was prepared to be flexible and innovative, making reasonable changes in their proposals in a manner consistent with their goal of reducing the risk of nuclear war.

MOSCOW: The Soviet Foreign Ministry confirmed yesterday that Mr Viktor Karpov, the chief Soviet negotiator at the Geneva talks, was ill, but would be flying out in the near future, AP reports.

## US works with Russia for Lebanon peace

From Our Correspondent Washington

"The United States" has discussed the Middle East, including Lebanon, with the Soviet Union "and our objectives to get all the foreign forces out of Lebanon", the State Department said yesterday.

A spokesman was commenting on a statement here by Mr Elie Salem, the Lebanese Foreign Minister, that he had been assured that the United States would continue its efforts and work with the Soviet Union, European allies and Arab countries to persuade Syria to withdraw.

The spokesman added: "Our objective is to get all the foreign forces out of Lebanon and restore Lebanese sovereignty."

Israhels killed, page 6

## THE TIMES Tomorrow

By early tomorrow the complexion of the next Parliament will be known and throughout the night *The Times* will be producing a series of special editions to incorporate the latest election results. At the same time *The Times* team of leading political writers will be assessing events and prospects as they unfold with the unique authority that has been brought to the newspaper's election coverage throughout the campaign.

## Saturday

*The Times* on Saturday will include a 12-page special section listing the whole of the election results in detail, together with biographies of the new MPs; there will be a full list of the Queen's Birthday Honours; the *Saturday* section will provide eight pages of weekend leisure reading; and the sports pages will be previewing World Cup cricket, highlighting the meeting at Headingley between the West Indians and the Australians.

## FT index surges to record

Shares surged to a record high, with the FT index of 30 leading companies up 4.4 to 714.7 as investors showed confidence in a Conservative victory in the polls. The pound eased 20 points against a stronger dollar to \$1.57.

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## FINANCIAL TIMES

The strike-bound *Financial Times* has failed to appear for the eighth successive day. Meanwhile the Press Association faces an election night strike by more than 150 members of the National Union of Journalists.

Page 2

## Aid team out

The 12 relief workers abducted seven weeks ago by Ethiopian guerrillas have crossed into the Sudanese border town of Kassala, a spokesman for the Tigré People's Liberation Front said.

Earlier report page 6

## Abortions rise

Britain's illegitimacy and divorce rates are among the highest in the European Community, according to the latest statistics. The number of abortions is rising.

Page 2

## Profits shared

After increasing profits by 26 per cent to £20.1m, Hill Samuel, the merchant banking and financial services group, has more than doubled to £7.6m the sum set aside for staff profit-sharing.

Page 21

## Gallows plea

One of the three African National Congress guerrillas due to be hanged this morning has appealed for a stay of execution as international protests mount.

Page 6

## OAU accord

The Organization of African Unity began its first summit in two troubled years after Polisario western Sahara guerrillas agreed to stay away from the meeting in Addis Ababa.

Polisario pull-out, page 6

## P & O to reply

Lord Incheape, the P & O chairman is to answer questions from Mr Nigel Brookes, chairman of Trafalgar House, about the group's performance at today's annual meeting.

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Leading article: Polling day: Conservation strategy. Features, pages 14 and 16. Bernard Levin on the patience of the fascist left; Union threats to press freedom; Ronald Butt on the turning-point election. Spectrum: Up the poll without a vote.

Books, page 15. Norman Mailer's Egyptian novel gets an admiring thumbs-down from Gay Firth; Fiona MacCarthy reviews *Blue Highway*; the rediscovery of forgotten America; biography of Roy Jenkins; Napoleon; Gerhardt; Robert Nye reviews Elizabeth Bishop, D. M. Thomas, and other poetry.

Obituary, page 18. Sir David Collins, Mr Burnett Giffey.

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## Britain high in EEC league of illegitimacy and divorce

By Ian Murray

The illegitimacy and divorce rates in Britain are among the highest in the EEC, according to figures published yesterday by the European Commission.

They show that 125 of every 1,000 people born in Britain are illegitimate, with only France (126) and Denmark (357) higher. At the same time, the divorce rate of 2.8 per thousand of the population is equalled by Denmark, but is significantly higher than any other country except Holland (two per thousand).

The detailed figures, in 205 pages of tables, also show that legal abortion in Britain is increasing steadily, though the number of non-British people receiving them has decreased steadily since 1973.

If the statistical predictions are correct the average British boy born now can expect to live for 69.8 years, and the average girl for 75.9 years. Only French, Danish and Dutch children can expect to live longer. The figures also show that only the West German has a higher proportion of people over 65 in good health and drawing pensions.

For the first time the annual EEC statistics look at the number of foreign residents in each country. In Britain's case these total 2,137,000 of whom 673,000 come from other community countries and 1,464,000 from third world countries. France, which has a similar total population to Britain, has almost 3,500,000 foreign residents, nearly half of them from Africa. The immigrant population in West Germany totals 4,629,700, of whom 1,546,300 are from Turkey.

The figures show an encouraging drop in the rate of perinatal mortality in the United Kingdom over the past two decades. In 1960 about 33 babies in every thousand died in the months after birth, but this has now dropped to about 13. Progress in this area has, however, been greater in Ireland, where the death rate has dropped to just under seven per thousand over the same period and in Denmark, once again there is a slow growth in the birth rate in most EEC countries. Britain, with 13 children per thousand people born each year, is now higher than that for Italy, where there are on average 11 children per thousand.

This is largely explained by the enormous legal abortion rate in Italy since 1980, when the law allowing the operation was passed. Italian legal abortions are currently running at 36 per cent of all live births.

Ireland, with a birth rate of 20 per thousand, has the fastest growing population. In British couples tend to marry younger than most. The average groom is 25.3 years old, and the bride 23. Only the Belgian (22.1 years) and the Greek brides (22.3 years) are younger, and the average Belgian groom (24.6 years) is the youngest.

## Builders will hold interest at 10%

By Baron Phillips, Property Correspondent

Leading housebuilders have ignored the prospect of higher mortgage rates by freezing their interest rates for home buyers at 10 per cent.

A rise in mortgage interest rates of at least one percentage point now looks certain and it is felt in some quarters that the rate could increase to 11.5 per cent within weeks.

But such builders as Wimpey, Leach Homes, and Comben, which are likely to construct 16,000 houses and flats this year, are promising buyers they will freeze interest rates at 10 per cent for at least a year.

Leach, which is building between 2,000 and 3,000 new homes in the North, will apply the freeze to all sales contracted by the end of September.

Mr David Eaton, sales director of Wimpey Homes, said his company had already pegged mortgage rates at 10 per cent for all sales until July 1, 1984. Wimpey expects to build between 10,500 and 11,000 homes this year, 75 per cent of which will go to first-time buyers.

Mr Ian Montgomery, marketing manager of the Bristol-based Comben group, said he expected to introduce a freeze after a board meeting today. The scheme, however, would apply only to first-time buyers.

A rise in mortgage rates is not expected to be announced this week after the Building Societies Association monthly council meeting. But it is believed that the association will announce an emergency meeting in about a fortnight's time, when higher interest rates will almost certainly be set.

Building societies are under pressure because there is a great demand for mortgages, but low interest rates for savers are not attracting matching funds.

It is thought the net inflow of funds last month fell to just over £300m, compared with £435m in April. Societies believe they need net monthly inflows of at least £700m to finance mortgage demand, running at £1,500m.

Mortgage rates were cut from 12 to 10 per cent last December, which has helped increase house buying. Prices have risen sharply, by as much as 10 per cent in areas like London and the South east.

A one point rise in mortgage rates would mean the average new borrower paying an extra £7.65 a month on a £17,000 loan. But buyers in the South-east, who are taking out loans of about £25,000, would face an increase of £11.25.

Commercial property, page 28

## NUJ urges 'black' on poll night reports

By Paul Routledge  
Labour Editor

The National Union of Journalists yesterday asked its 32,000 members to "black" election night copy from the Press Association in support of a 48-hour official strike by NUJ members employed at the national news agency.

More than 130 NUJ journalists are seeking to disrupt the PA service from 10pm tonight in support of efforts to make the company's management improve its 7 per cent package pay offer.

Mr Jacob Ecclesstone, the union's deputy general secretary, said: "We are urging, urging, and exhorting all members not to handle PA copy or supply copy to PA." The guidance to members stops short of an instruction, which might fall foul of the legal ban on most "secondary action" introduced in the 1980 Employment Act.

This provision was enacted after a celebrated court case, *Express Newspapers v MacShane*, in which the Law Lords upheld the right of journalists at the *Daily Express* to "black" PA copy under then existing labour law.

Indications last night were that the NUJ request to its members will get a mixed response. Staff at *The Guardian* voted not to handle PA copy, but *Express* journalists overwhelmingly rejected the idea. Other Fleet Street NUJ chapters were considering their position. In Scotland, a "solid" response to the request was reported.

The union said in a statement yesterday: "The NUJ today declared official a strike of its members at the Press Association, due to begin as the polling booths close. The 48-hour stoppage is being called because of an unsatisfactory response by management, which shared a £2.3m profit last year, to a claim for improved wages and conditions."

In support of the NUJ's 135 members at the Press Association, the union's 32,000 members are being asked not to do anything which would undermine their strike, particularly the supply of election results for the PA or the taking of results from television screens.

Salaries at the PA for journalists range to £15,209 a year, and the average is £12,160, according to the union. Management has offered 6.5 per cent on salaries plus a further 4 per cent on holidays and productivity money.

Mr Ecclesstone said that the NUJ had responded positively to approaches from the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service for exploratory peace talks, but he accused management of rejecting these overtures. Repeated attempts to secure the views of Mr David Chipp, editor-in-chief of the PA, failed yesterday.

Meanwhile, talks at Acas on the machine room dispute at the *Financial Times*, went into a second day yesterday with no clear sign of an early end. The dispute prevented publication for the eighth successive day today.



Mr David Broome, of the British showjumping team, carrying a wreath at yesterday's funeral at Priors Marston, Warwickshire, of Caroline Bradley, the showjumper, who died last week.

## Surreal wife wins painter £7,000

By Christopher Warman, Arts Correspondent

A portrait combining surrealism with the even more modern concept of television has won the £7,000 John Player portrait award, made in association with the National Portrait Gallery.

The oil painting, by Michael Taylor, aged 31, is called "Caroline watching Television", and features his wife, Mr Taylor, who said yesterday that he was a figure painter, was £5,000 and receives a commission worth £1,000 for a portrait of a "well-known sitter" which will go to the gallery's contemporary portrait collection.

The presentation was made yesterday by Sir Hugh Casson, president of the Royal Academy, which has shown some of Taylor's work. It has also turned down some of his offerings.

The judges, who included the artist Peter Blake, and Professor Sir Lawrence Gowing, head of the Slade School of Fine Art in London, described the work as "a magical picture which is beautifully painted and gives one a great deal to think about. It has a convincing surrealism, element, uncommon in portraiture, and is very inventive. It is a highly personal and in a curious way, a very English painting, very positively drawn with a wonderful control of colour."

Mr Taylor's wife, whose likeness in the portrait is not flattering, nevertheless said she approved of the work.

Second in the competition, from which about 50 works will form an exhibition throughout the summer, was Daphne Todd, who wins £750, and Carey Blundell (£500) was third.

## Jail study analyses trend to suicide

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Remand and life-sentence prisoners are among the most likely to commit suicide in jail, according to preliminary research completed for an inquiry by Sir James Hennessy, Chief Inspector of Prisons.

The study also finds that long-term prisoners are more prone to suicides if they have committed sex crimes. Prisoners committing suicide tend to be slightly older than other inmates.

The rate of suicide in jails has risen over the past 25 years. Between 1957 and 1961, it was three per 10,000 average daily population in England and Wales, but in 1979 and 1980 it was five per 10,000 and four in 1981, with one inquest outstanding.

Actual numbers have also risen because the prison population has increased and become more difficult with a consequent strain on the system. In 1981, the last year for which figures are available, there were 16 suicides, all by hanging, and one death by misadventure after a mattress was set alight.

Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, asked Sir James to inquire into the arrangements for the prevention of suicides after widespread concern about deaths in prison.

The preliminary research is borne out by Mr Sidney Powell, secretary of the prison governors' branch of the Society of Civil and Public Servants, which has been invited to give evidence to the inquiry.

Sixty per cent of suicides has a treatable depressive illness and saw their doctors just before their death. Psychiatrists and the Samaritans were better at recognizing potential suicides than general practitioners or nurses, Mr Jenkins said.

Corroborative evidence comes from Strangeways, Manchester, the most strife-torn prison in Britain, where people have had to wait up to 27 months for trial locked up for up to 23 hours a day in overcrowded cells. Last year there were 12 acts of mass disobedience by remand prisoners, nine sit-down protests in the exercise yard and one in the cinema; and 23 cell fires, in one of which three men died. This year there have been 12 fires, five of them in cells.

Mr David Jenkins, director of the Howard League for Penal Reform, is to tell Sir James that general research into suicides suggest they can be prevented. Most victims contact someone before the attempt and declared their intention directly or indirectly.

## Rates check group expansion

By David Walker

A large number of jobs are being offered at the commission recently created by the Government to check that councils are providing ratepayers with value for money.

Some 55 posts are being created for accountants to supplement the staff of the Local Government Audit Commission, which monitors council's books. Although the commission is supposed to encourage councils to use private auditors, the commissioners have found since they started work on April 1 that some private companies do not have the expertise to conduct adequate surveys of council spending.

Speaking at the annual conference of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, Mr John Read, chairman of the commission, denied he was building an empire. He promised that the commission's headquarters staff would be kept "as small as possible. But council treasurers complained that the commission is raising the fees for audit work by up to 50 per cent.

Mr Read was at pains to reassure councils that the commission was not going to interfere with their spending. "It is up to local authorities to establish what their own service priorities may be." But he gave a warning that auditors would in future be presenting reports on value for money directly to elected councillors.

## Yard check on 'sale' of A-level pages

Scotland Yard was last night investigating the removal of A level examination papers from the University of London Exam Centre, and allegations that stolen papers were being sold for £100 each.

About 5,500 pupils who sat A-level French yesterday in London and at schools in the south-east may be asked to re-sit the examination with a new paper, and a history A-level test scheduled for next Thursday may be cancelled, depending on the outcome of police investigations.

Police were called in by *The Standard* the London evening newspaper, after it had been handed the papers by a man who said he worked in the university.

The newspaper said its informant, whose name has not been given to the police or university authorities, did not ask for any payment for the documents. He was "seething with indignation" about the lax security which made it so easy for him to remove them.

He was reported in *The Standard* yesterday as saying: "Security is a joke, absolutely appalling. Basically anyone can take these papers from the place they are being kept. I've heard there are quite a few missing, and they are selling at up to £100 a time."

Mr Alan Stephenson, secretary of the London University Examination Board, which sets A level and O level examinations for nearly 500,000 students in London and the South-east, said yesterday: "If this man was worried about security, why did he not come to us?"

Mr Stephenson confirmed that the papers given to *The Standard* were genuine. "Obviously I cannot be happy about security if question papers are taken out. We are checking our security arrangements, and we will have to institute stricter procedures."

He said number of people would have access to the papers along the route, but in this case they were in security store in Chancery Street, Bloomsbury, with only one means of access. It must have been "an inside job".

The newspaper's informant was reported to have said he knew it was wrong to take the papers, but felt something had to be done about security. He said the examination papers came in in January, and extra part-time staff were taken on to prepare for the summer tests; any of them would have access, he said.

Mr Stephenson speculated that the private students, who are few in number compared with schools, would be more likely to form a market for stolen examination papers.

The only other recent instance of papers going missing was last June, when A level papers were stolen from Highgate School. They were set by the Oxford and Cambridge Examinations Board. When the theft became known, replacement papers were issued within a week.

## Woman buried by road to save pension, court told

From Arthur Osman Birmingham

An old woman's death was concealed and she was buried at night near a lay-by in a Buckinghamshire country road, Birmingham Crown Court was told yesterday.

Mr Richard Curtis, QC, for the prosecution, said that the object of the "macabre" interment was to enable three women, including the dead woman's daughter, to continue drawing her pension money to a level of £5,000.

It was nearly two years before the body was found after one of three women before the court confessed her part in the affair to relatives and the police were called.

Mrs Sonia Legrand, aged 44, and Mrs Lily Townsend, aged 45, of Droverscroft, Green Lays, Milton Keynes, denied ill-treating Mrs Lily Townsend, aged 80, a mentally disordered patient in their care.

With Mrs Legrand's mother, Mrs Winifred Grace Cooper, aged 66, of Dunvedin Close, Hodge Lea, Milton Keynes, they also denied preventing a lawful and decent burial.

Mrs Legrand and Miss Townsend admitted conspiracy to obtain money from the Department of Health and Social Security by deception by representing that Mrs Lily Townsend was alive, but Mrs Cooper denied the charge.

Mrs Cooper confessed her part in the matter in January, 1982. Mrs Legrand told police officers that Mrs Townsend was alive in Bury St Edmunds.

Subsequently, however, a prepared statement was handed to police. In it, she was alleged to have said that after Mrs Townsend died her mother said that because rigor mortis had set in, they would get in trouble for not calling a doctor earlier. It had scared them. They decided to bury the body. The case continues.

## No action against lawyer for 'retake streets' call

By Frances Gibb  
Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Bar Council is not to take any action against Mr Rudi Narayan, the leading rights barrister, over his call to people in Lambeth, south London, to repossess the streets from the police.

Mr Narayan, who already faces disciplinary proceedings by the Bar Council, made his remarks at a rowdy meeting on Tuesday night of the Lambeth Community Police Liaison Group.

He said at the meeting: "If it is necessary to fight a war of resistance to get them (the police) out off the street as a ratepayer I will lead it."

But yesterday Sir Arthur Power, secretary to the Senate of the Inns of Court and the Bar, said: "A barrister can operate in the political field and there is a wide latitude as to what a barrister is allowed in this field."

"In this particular case it is probably fair to say Mr Narayan was operating in a political field rather than a legal one."



Mr Narayan: Pledged to lead resistance.

## Muslim is banned for beating

A mosque has been closed and the Muslim priest dismissed after he beat two boys during religious instruction. Their schoolteacher called in the police and social workers when the boys told him of their punishment.

Urdu leaflets are now being circulated among Sheffield's 15,000 Muslim community outlining the law on child abuse. But yesterday, a Muslim leader in the city, Dr Karim Admani, defended the community's strictures on child discipline.

Dr Admani, president of Sheffield's Muslim Council, said: "We do not really believe in soft soaping our children. We believe in discipline, and perhaps people do not like it."

The beatings at the Jhousia Mosque in Fir Vale, Sheffield, led to a special meeting of the city's Muslim Council, attended by police and social service officials. The meeting decided to send out the leaflets.

Dr Admani said that although the Muslim community did not condone what had happened, "We have little faith in the system of social workers because they do not understand our culture."

## Sunday papers 'must be updated'

From Our Correspondent, Blackpool

Sunday newspapers should be updated and improved to meet the requirements of the reader, Mr Edward Whelan, the new president of the National Federation of Retail Newspapers, said yesterday.

Speaking at the federation's annual conference in Blackpool, Mr Whelan, from Manchester, said he was convinced that publishers must seriously reassess the quality of their publications and be constantly reminded that changing social habits were having a damaging effect on sales. Sunday was now the key day, for example, for hiring video films.

The federation should also concern itself with Sunday newspaper sales to keep selling points at present levels. Mr Whelan told delegates. Services must be provided up to lunchtime everywhere and where there was a need there should be a service available, particularly in residential districts.

If newspapers did not ensure availability then they were contributing to the decline of sales of Sunday publications and providing an excuse for those who wished to expand the supplying of new and non-traditional outlets.

Mr Whelan said that the multiple groups had 25 per cent of the trade, and newspapers must become involved in positive promotion, the key to extra sales.

## Science report

## Life may have had many false starts

By the Staff of Nature

Life on Earth may have begun as many as 10 times with only one branch surviving until the present, two American geophysicists are claiming.

Life is based on the tremendous variability of polypeptides: such as proteins, composed of chains of amino acids. The conceivable number of polypeptide chains is almost infinite, according to Dr David M. Raup, of the University of Chicago, and Dr James W. Valentine, of the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Therefore, they argue, the particular set of polypeptides of which we and the rest of life on Earth are composed is only one of many that could be the basis of some form of life.

Dr Raup and Dr Valentine thus raise the possibility that life did begin with a variety of different polypeptide groups than a variety of different biochemistries, in many different places on Earth. However, now we have only one biochemistry; so the two researchers are forced to explain why only one might have survived.

To do so, they turn to their calculators. Biologists have a simple formula which determines the probability of survival, for say, 100 million years, of some branch of the evolutionary tree (all insects, for example).

It depends on two quantities: the probability that a branch will branch again, and the probability of extinction of a sub-branch. From the fossil record, there are broad estimates of these numbers, so Dr Raup and Dr Valentine are able to calculate, roughly speaking, how long an initial biochemistry is likely to survive.

In practice, however, the researchers face the problem that branching and extinction probabilities are known only when a fossil record exists, which means, essentially, only in the Cambrian geological period after 600 million years ago and later.

But life had its origins much earlier, perhaps 3,600 million years ago. So do the Cambrian values apply? Dr Raup and Dr Valentine cannot say but work their way through a series of calculations until they arrive at two tables. One estimates the probability that present life is the sole survivor of a number of life starts, for different numbers of life starts and different numbers of the sub-branch extinction rate.

The second table estimates the probability that life survives at all; that, clearly, increases in the opposite direction.

The true case, the researchers suggest, lies "somewhere near the middle" of both tables.

Source: Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (US) (vol 80, 2585) May 1983.  
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## Prince of Wales tells landowners they risk tighter controls

By Hugh Clayton

The Prince of Wales forecast yesterday that there would be tighter controls on landowners if they did not try to meet the demands of urban visitors to the countryside. He foresaw "some form of central authority" if those who hold their land in trust for future generations are not prepared to adjust to changing attitudes and pressures.

He said that the competing demands of farming and conservation on private estates could be met through compromise. But the threat of conflicting advice given to landowners such as himself was not always helpful.

The Prince was speaking in London to mark the publication of the British response to the World Conservation Strategy, which was started by international conservation agencies in 1980. The reports published yesterday, make up a proposed course of action for the new government.

The Prince concentrated on his experience as landlord of hundreds of tenants of the Duchy of Cornwall. He thus deftly avoided the national political implication of the strategy's call for government action against pollution, waste of raw materials and the destruction of habitats. "I thought I could emphasize

some of the practical problems in trying to reconcile the conflicting demands facing a large estate", he said.

Farmers were sometimes caught between opposing pressures. The Ministry of Agriculture showed them how to increase output while official bodies like the Countryside Commission wanted them to conserve the landscape. "It is little wonder that the chap opts for the biggest incentive in terms of subsidy", the Prince said. He believed that his Duchy's work to find room for economic community life on Dartmoor had contributed to the conservation strategy. "Dartmoor has in recent years become a battleground in more senses than one", the Prince added.

The Duchy was prepared to "blunt its economic objectives" on Dartmoor, but its aims and those of the local national park authority inevitably differed. "The Duchy is not a philanthropic organization and the agricultural holdings of Dartmoor cannot make it rich", the Prince said. But he felt that "we all have a definite responsibility to respond to the genuinely held anxieties of an increasing number of people".

The Duchy was preparing a management plan for the next 20 years that might involve establishing demonstration farms. "The consultations that

have taken place with nearly 50 statutory and voluntary bodies illustrate the problems we face", the Prince said. "Almost everything that is proposed arouses argument and dissent."

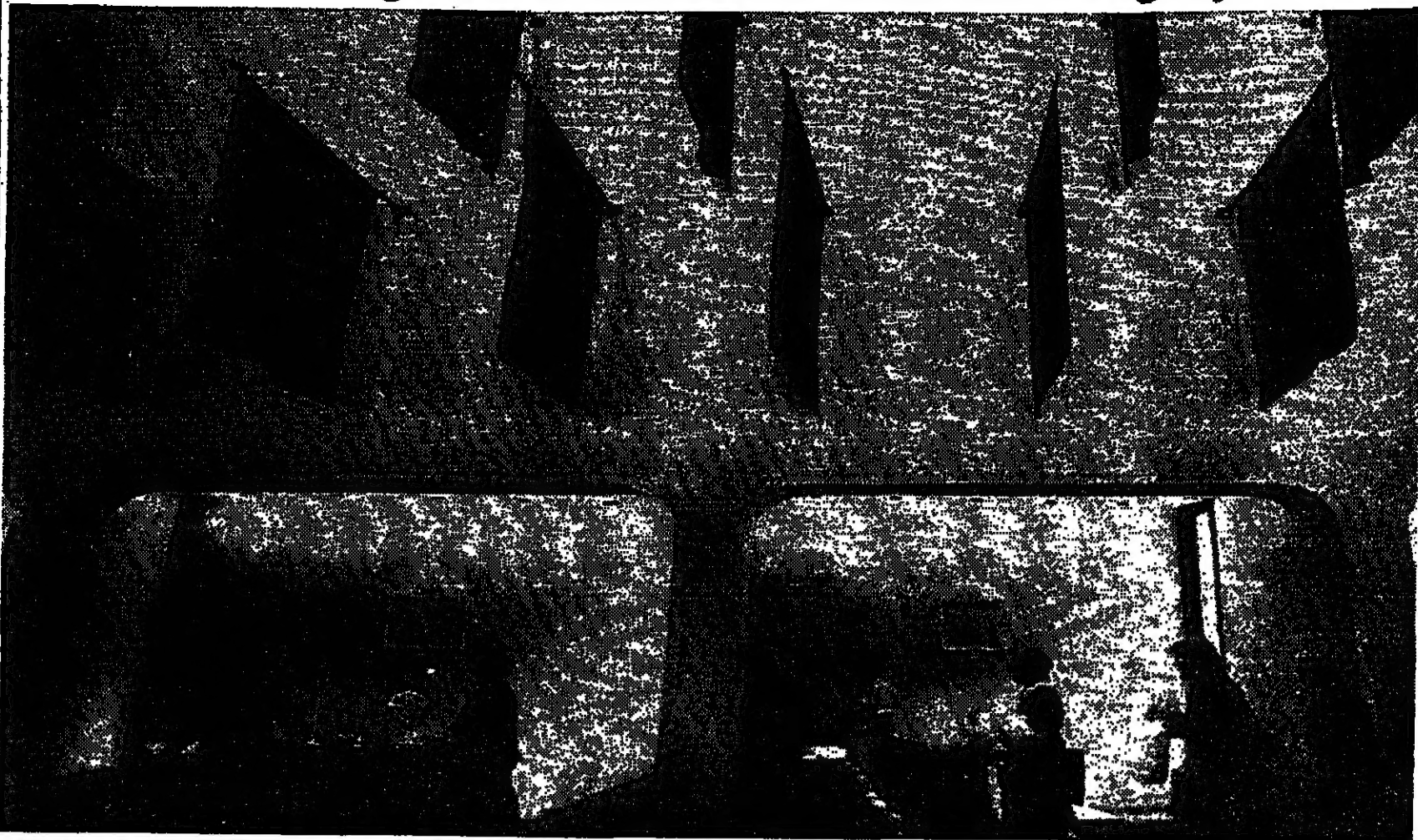
Dr David Bellamy, the television biologist, said that the world had less than five years in which to ensure survival by turning away from its present course of waste and destruction of habitats. He wanted more support for the recreational demands of visitors to the countryside. "It is about time we had some subsidies which gave some clout behind those very things that people want to do", he said.

Professor Mohammed Kassas, president of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature said that many countries had produced national responses to the strategy. His organization helped to start the World Conservation Strategy in 1980.

The reports in the British response call for tighter coastal planning controls, mild reform of wildlife protection and an injection of environmental awareness into school curricula. They call for a positive response from the new government and industry to the need to conserve and recycle resources like energy, timber and fish.

The Conservation and Development Programme for the UK, Kogan Page Ltd, 120 Pentonville Road, London N1; £13.45.

## Relatives gather to remember Bluff Cove tragedy



Relatives of soldiers killed a year ago yesterday on the Sir Galahad landing at Bluff Cove in the Falklands lining up to lay wreaths at the Welsh Guards Chapel in London yesterday.

The families were said to be "still very sad and bitter" that they were not holding a memorial service at the chapel but at the Kensington Temple, Notting Hill.

The Ministry of Defence said that they could not use the chapel because a memorial plaque there was not yet ready for dedication.

Mr John Nicholson, who organized the service, said: "I would think a year is plenty of time. In some of our parish churches it took only weeks to get memorial plaques."

Some of the relatives went on to Downing Street after the ceremony to deliver a letter to Mrs Margaret Thatcher. Others went to the chapel to lay a wreath.

"They want a national memorial in Wales and I am quite in favour of that", Mr Nicholson, South Wales

regional official of the Falklands Families Association, said.

Mr Nicholson, of Bridgend, Mid-Glamorgan, lost a son, Gareth, aged 19, on Sir Galahad. He said: "When we attended the cathedral service at St Paul's last year a promise was made at a lunch given afterwards that this year a service would be held at the guards' chapel. However, that has not taken place, so we decided to go ahead and have our own service."

Asked how families felt about not knowing why their sons and fathers

had been so easily bombed by Argentine planes, Mr Nicholson said: "We are all still very sad and very bitter about what happened."

The families brought a wreath of flowers shaped in the form of a leek, the crest of the Welsh Guards, to the service. A roll of honour of the 39 First Battalion Welsh Guards and three Special Air Service Regiment soldiers who died was read out by the Rev Wynn Lewis, Mr Nicholson's brother-in-law.

Photograph: Brian Harris

## Roach case jury see scene of death

By Nicholas Timmins

The jury in the inquest on Colin Roach yesterday visited the scene of his death at Stoke Newington police station in north London.

The jury of 10, half of them black, were taken from Clerkenwell County Court to the police station where they spent almost 45 minutes inside and in the foyer and lobby where Mr Roach died from a shotgun blast on January 12.

They took measurements in the lobby and asked questions after earlier in court being shown the shotgun that was found several feet away from Mr Roach's body at the opposite end of the lobby.

Mr Kevin O'Callaghan, a firearms expert from the Metropolitan Police forensic science laboratory, told the inquest that all indications were that the gun had been fired inside the mouth rather than from outside.

Asked by Mr Mike Mansfield, counsel for the Roach family, if the gun could have been introduced by someone else while Mr Roach was speaking, he said that it was "possible, but it seems to me extremely unlikely".

The barrel was seven-eighths of an inch across, and the mouth "would have to open more than in general speech".

The shotgun, he said, was a common, quite inexpensive Russian 12 bore. Tests of a similar weapon had shown that it recoiled 17ft when fired off the ground, and 6ft when fired about 2ft off the ground.

A similar test firing of the actual weapon is to be made today and video taped for showing to the jury, at the request of Mr Mansfield.

The hearing was adjourned until tomorrow.

## Clerk fined for keeping secret texts

Ronald Cox, a former Foreign Office registry clerk, was fined a total of £1,200 yesterday for keeping confidential documents at his home.

Cox, aged 31, who now lives with his mother in Meriton, Somerset, told Merway magistrates in Kent yesterday, in a written statement: "I took the documents while I was based at the British Embassy in Dhaka, Bangladesh, because I was overworked and couldn't cope."

Cox's former home in Ormond Grove, Gillingham, Kent, was bought by Mr Duncan Griffith and wife, who found two large cardboard boxes in the attic filled with files and envelopes. There were 141 marked confidential, 51 restricted and a large number unclassified.

Cox admitted two charges brought under Section II of the Official Secrets Act: illegal possession of the files and failing to take care of them as a registry clerk. He was fined £600 for each offence.

Mr Roger Stokes, for the defence, said: "If Cox had burnt them no one would have been the wiser. It was just laziness that caused all this. No harm has been done to this country's security, nor has it caused any embarrassment."

Cox said afterwards: "All I want to do now is to go back to work and forget this silly mistake of mine." He is now employed in the accounts department of Merriott Mouldings.

## BBC cancels TV teams' coverage of papal visit

By Kenneth Gossling

BBC television teams assigned to cover the Pope's visit to Poland, which starts next Thursday, have been withdrawn as a protest against the Polish authorities' refusal to grant visas and work permits to Mr Tim Sebastian, BBC Europe correspondent, and Mr Jan Repa, of the external services.

Arrangements are being made with American networks and the European Broadcasting Union to receive coverage of the seven-day visit.

The BBC said it greatly regretted the refusal of visas to two important reporters, both of whom spoke Polish.

Visas and permits had been granted to the technical teams from television news and the Newsnight programme, but they would not now cover the visit.

The BBC said the refusal of visas was contrary to the spirit

of a meeting Mr Alasdair Milne, its director general, had earlier this year with Polish Embassy officials who had said they wanted the BBC to keep open its Warsaw office and to report events in the country.

Last March, Mr Sebastian, winner of the television reporter of the year award for his coverage of Poland, was granted a week's temporary visa to report on relief efforts.

Mr Kevin Ruane, the BBC's resident correspondent, was expelled last December but after lengthy discussions was reinstated. Mr Ruane will report the Pope's visit for BBC radio and the external services. It had been planned that Mr Sebastian and Mr Repa would deal with the considerable demands for coverage from all BBC television and external services programmes.

## Doctors criticized in survey

By David Nicholson-Lord

Long waits at surgeries and difficulties in getting appointments are the commonest complaints about general practitioners, according to a survey by *Which?* published today. But 14 per cent of respondents expressed lack of confidence in the diagnosis of their GPs.

A survey of 448 practice telephone numbers outside surgery hours by *Which?* researchers found "no contact" in a quarter of the calls, because the number was persistently engaged, there was no reply or the caller spoke to someone who said no doctor could be contacted.

In a section, "Getting the most from your GP", the magazine advises patients to plan and make notes on what they are going to say in the consultation. It suggests patients should ask for an explanation of the workings of

any drugs prescribed and any terms they do not understand and to make a note of anything they might forget.

The magazine surveyed 1,300 members of the Consumers' Association, half of whom said they had no problem with their GPs in the past year. The commonest complaints cited by the other half were waits at the surgery, listed by 26 per cent of the sample, difficulties in getting appointments, 20 per cent.

Inconvenient surgery hours, brusque, high-handed or protective receptionists, feeling rushed with the GP and having something poorly explained by the doctor, were listed by another 12 per cent.

Of the numbers citing poor diagnosis, the magazine comments: "we cannot tell whether these complaints are justified but the fact that some patients

do not have confidence in their GPs is worrying".

The telephone survey showed that in a third of the cases, an out-of-hours caller spoke direct to a GP or a deputizing service; in another 40 per cent, the contact was "indirect" and the caller was given another telephone number to ring.

Typical comments from respondents included criticisms of appointments systems where times "seems to be of little consequence once you have arrived at the surgery".

But as evidence of how much GPs varied and patients varied in their expectations of them, *Which?* contrasts criticisms from members that the answer to their medical problems is "always tablets" with the comment: "The doctor is particularly keen on not using drugs unless absolutely necessary".

## Dogs freed in kennel raid

From Our Correspondent, Liverpool

Intruders broke into kennels on Tuesday night and released 51 hunting beagles at Ledsam in Wirral. Twelve of the hounds were lured into a van and the rest were let loose in a caravan park near by.

One of the animals was knocked down as dislocated a hip. The release of the dogs from the Royal Rock Beagles Kennels was discovered after a pack of beagles trailed a cyclist, who alerted police.

Mr Charles Dowson, aged 80, the kennel huntsman, spent the night rounding up the 12 beagles who roamed for miles after they were freed.

Mr Dowson's wife Isabel, aged 68, yesterday claimed an animal liberation group was responsible for the raid on the kennels.

Animal liberation groups denied carrying out the raid.

The security measures will make it impossible for an intruder to kick a door off its hinges or split the frame. The women's committee chairman, Miss Valerie White, said: "This move will go a long way to help families, and women in particular, to feel safe in their home environment. I hope it will be implemented on a wider scale so that more women might benefit."

The scheme comes after a report to the housing and women's committees that women needed to feel safer at home because they spent more time there than other members of the family. Mr Anthony McBrearty, said: "The pilot estates to be chosen in consultation with boroughs and tenants will be monitored to assess the success of the package."

Tower Hamlets, Lewisham, Lambeth and Hackney have been chosen for the scheme.

## Better locks for flats in London

The Greater London Council intends to spend £180,000 to making its houses and flats safer, especially for women. The pilot scheme for housing estates in four boroughs will include fitting individual homes with stronger front doors, locks and hinges.

The security measures will make it impossible for an intruder to kick a door off its hinges or split the frame. The women's committee chairman, Miss Valerie White, said: "This move will go a long way to help families, and women in particular, to feel safe in their home environment. I hope it will be implemented on a wider scale so that more women might benefit."

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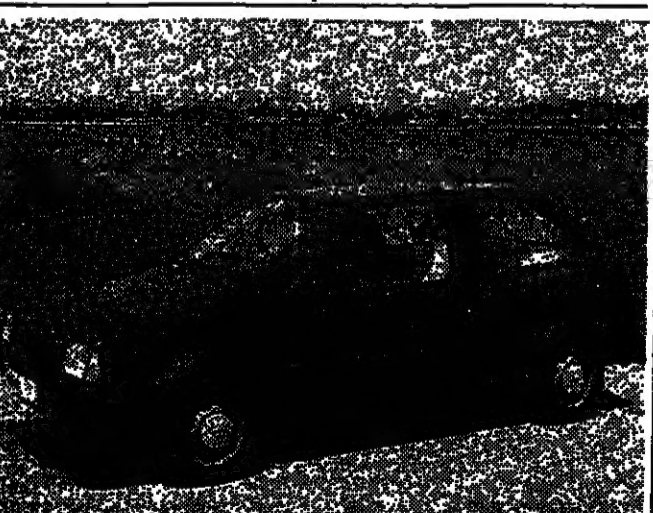
## Nissan offers 67.3mpg Metro rival

By Clifford Webb  
Motoring Correspondent

A formidable new Japanese car appears today to contest the crowded competitive small car market. The 1-litre Nissan Micra (right) is claimed to be the most economical car in Britain, returning 67.3 mpg at 56 mph.

This is no overbearing freak prepared specially for an advertising campaign. The all-new aluminium engine produces an outstanding 55 bhp. Helped by an extremely low overall weight of less than 13 cwt, the Micra has lively acceleration and a top speed approaching 90 mph.

At a fraction under 12ft, it is 10in longer than the market leader, BL's Metro. Standard fittings include reclining front seats with built-in head rests, cloth upholstery, radio, cigar



lighter, quartz digital clock and a rear wash-wipe system.

But the biggest attraction will be the five-speed gearbox on the GL version. The absence of a fifth gear is very noticeable in the Metro at motorway speeds. Yet the

Micra GL will sell for £4,149, compared with £4,599 for BL's petrol-economy model, the Metro HLE. Two other versions are being imported, the DX with a four-speed box and lower compression engine, at £3,749, and the GL automatic, at £4,450.

## Police fear for safety of missing boy

The police said yesterday they were extremely concerned for the safety of Colin Jackson, aged 11, who disappeared from home on Tuesday night. They believe he is with Mr Roy Williams, aged 24.

Forces throughout the North-east were put on alert after Colin vanished from his home in Manor Walk, Stillington, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland.

A Cleveland Police spokesman said: "He has never left home before and we regard his disappearance as very serious."

He added that Colin and Mr Williams were believed to be heading for Tyne-side. Colin is 4ft 10in tall, thin-built, with a fair complexion and blond shoulder-length hair. He was wearing a black T-shirt. Mr Williams left his home in Caudwell Close, Stockton-on-Tees, about the time Colin disappeared.

## Soho club fire survivor tells court of attack

A fire last July killed seven Chinese at an illegal Soho gambling club was caused by a group of Vietnamese who burst in carrying a can of petrol, the only survivor of the blaze said yesterday.

Mr Johnny Poon, a croupier, aged 24, told the Central Criminal Court in London that they were armed with table leg clubs and poured petrol over the door, gaming tables and floor.

One of the men had a cigarette lighter, Mr Poon said. He knew from his gesture that he was going to set the place on fire.

The other Chinese at the premises in Gerard Street, were standing by the office and were told that there was no need to run away. Mr Poon said: "I managed to jump out as the fire

got worse. It was very fierce and I had no time to look back."

Two Vietnamese refugees, Vu Linh Nguyen, aged 24, of Knights House, Huntman Street, Walworth, and Van Thinh Phan, aged 21, of Rutland House, Milner Estate, Woolwich, both south London, denies arson and murder.

The jury was told that a group of the Vietnamese returned to the club after the argument over a gambling session.

Mr Poon said that he called for help before pouring two buckets of water on to the fire from street level.

"I went down there again with a policeman, but the door was locked. I tried to kick it open but there were fumes everywhere and black smoke pouring out."

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Geoffrey Smith

## COMMENT

From first to last this campaign has been dominated by Mrs Thatcher. She is not the only Prime Minister in the post-war years to have exercised such an influence over an election: Churchill in 1945, Macmillan in 1959 and Wilson in 1970 - all of them not only personified the appeal of their party, but also seemed to take up most of the political stage. The campaign in each case revolved around their personalities.

Yet none of them offers a precise comparison with Mrs Thatcher's performance in 1983. For all their personal charisma, Churchill and Wilson led their parties to catastrophic defeat, while Mrs Thatcher will register the biggest political surprise of the century if she fails now to win a resounding triumph. Macmillan was both dominant and triumphant. He also succeeded, like Mrs Thatcher, in pulling the Conservatives up from a mid-term trough. Indeed, in one sense, his achievement in restoring Conservative morale after Suez was even more remarkable than Mrs Thatcher's has been.

Yet even Macmillan at the height of his powers exercised quite such a personal sway over the political scene. He represented his party, he did not have a drawing power that was essentially distinct from it. But one of the curiosities of this campaign has been to hear people frequently describe themselves on the doorstep not as Conservatives but as Thatcherites.

How has she managed to have such an appeal? Humour was an important part of the armoury of Churchill, Macmillan and Wilson. Most great leaders have been people in whom the human juices flowed. But Mrs Thatcher exudes neither a sense of fun, nor an obvious sense of humanity, and certainly no sense of human frailty. The powers of the Presidency, Adlai Stevenson said in 1952, were such as to "smother

## Dangers in the Falklands factor

exaltation and convert vanity to prayer". If Mrs Thatcher were to offer similar sentiments, one would assume simply that she had engaged a speechwriter with a taste for American studies. Her greatness is not that of humility. She comes of a different tradition, which is associated neither with fun, nor with modesty - false or otherwise - but with intensity of purpose. Her outstanding characteristic is courage. She has the strength to be deterred neither by difficulties nor by mockery. It was this quality of determination that mattered above all others in the supreme test of her first administration.

So she entered the campaign with the aura of a successful war leader, even though hardly anyone mentioned the Falklands until Labour obliged last week. This advantage, massive though it was, could easily have been overplayed by Mrs Thatcher. The dividing line between the dominant and the domineering can be a fine one. At times despairing hands have had to be stretched out to pull her back on to the right side. But she has never gone so far as to estrange her support, and her personal ascendancy has remained unquestioned.

Under these circumstances it would have been hard for Labour to have mounted an effective challenge, whatever they had done. But in fact they have done quite a bit to help her. I am not thinking here primarily of the campaign itself. The critical mistakes were made before it began. Once Labour had saddled themselves with a leader and a programme that were designed to satisfy the party rather than the electorate, they had virtually ensured their defeat. To make quite certain, they failed to take decisive action against the extremists in their ranks.

Once the National Executive Committee had declined to prevent Militant supporters from becoming official party candidates, Mr Foot could not avoid sharing a platform with Mr Pat Walley. Mr Healey tried to compensate for his manifesto's evident failings by simply hijacking the party in mid-campaign. But it was too late. His performance will live in the memory alongside Mrs Thatcher's, but for different reasons. He has fought without fear, without restraint and without scruple. It has been in its way a remarkable example of the animal instinct for victory, but it has been counter-productive. He has been up against a player of no less determination and with far better cards.

## Thatcher and Foot find agreement in PR attack

By John Winder

The Prime Minister and Mr Michael Foot found themselves in agreement yesterday when Mrs Thatcher endorsed a bitter attack on proportional representation by the Labour leader.

It was one of two questions posed to Mr Foot at the Labour press conference yesterday which were based upon the possibility of a Labour defeat today. He told a journalist who asked if his name would go forward to the party conference as leader if the party were defeated tomorrow: "I am not contemplating failure but victory tomorrow, so the question does not arise."

At first Mr Foot attempted to give the same treatment to the question about the feelings of the electorate if it put the Alliance into second place but the Labour Party won more seats with fewer votes. That, he said, was entirely hypothetical.

A few moments later, after one of his colleagues had replied to another question, Mr Foot returned voluntarily to the subject.

"We in the Labour Party and myself especially are bitterly opposed to a system of proportional representation because I believe that it would destroy the connection between the MP and his own constituency which I regard as being one of the essential protections of our democracy in this country."

He complained that the case for proportional representation put by the Alliance was always about how it represented other people but did not go into the

question of what happened in individual constituencies.

The present campaign was being fought between individual candidates in constituencies where they appeal to people who know them.

"If we were to abandon the British parliamentary system and go in for proportional representation we would greatly injure one of the things which has sustained democracy in this country over the years: the capacity and right of an elected MP to go back to his constituents and ask for support from them."

That had protected some of the greatest parliamentarians in history. If Mr Churchill had not been able to appeal to his constituents in the 1930s, he might have been swung out of Conservative Central Office and if Aneurin Bevan had not been able to do so he might have been dealt with by a strictly disciplinary national council of the time.

"I am very sorry Liberals do not try to sustain this principle of democracy. I do not say there are not other forms of democracy, but this one is very important."

"I do not believe that the party machine should dictate to MPs in all circumstances. That notion is contrary to our ideas of democracy in this country."

When Mrs Thatcher was told that Mr Foot had attacked proportional representation she said: "That is one aspect on which we can agree. Many people in the Alliance party agreed when they were in the Labour Party."

## The eyes have it in Thatcherland

By Alan Hamilton

The body may be absent on affairs of state, but the face is inescapable. Mrs Thatcher's steady, steady gaze peers in profusion from the hedges and drooping willows of Finchley's front gardens, their careful suburban manicure a perfect match for the immaculate hairstyle on the full-colour poster.

The eyes seem to watch with disapproval peeping surreptitiously from among the greenery, until you feel like a naughty boy on an apple-stealing mission as you creep about in search of the other parties' headquarters.

It is barely conceivable that Mrs Thatcher should lose the seat she has held in seven contests since 1959, yet Finchley is no unassailable Tory bastion, and it is likely to become less so. She first took the seat 24 years ago with a majority of 16,260, a margin which by the 1979 election had been whittled away to 7,878, a drop at least partly explained by a considerably reduced electoral roll.

Her share of the vote gradually slipped over the years, but she recovered most of it in 1979, although the swing to the Tories in Finchley was only 4.8 per cent, compared with 5.2 per cent nationally.

This year she has paid seven visits to her constituency. Her agent, Mr Andrew Thompson, a voluble energetic Scot, adopts a visaged of near-religious joy

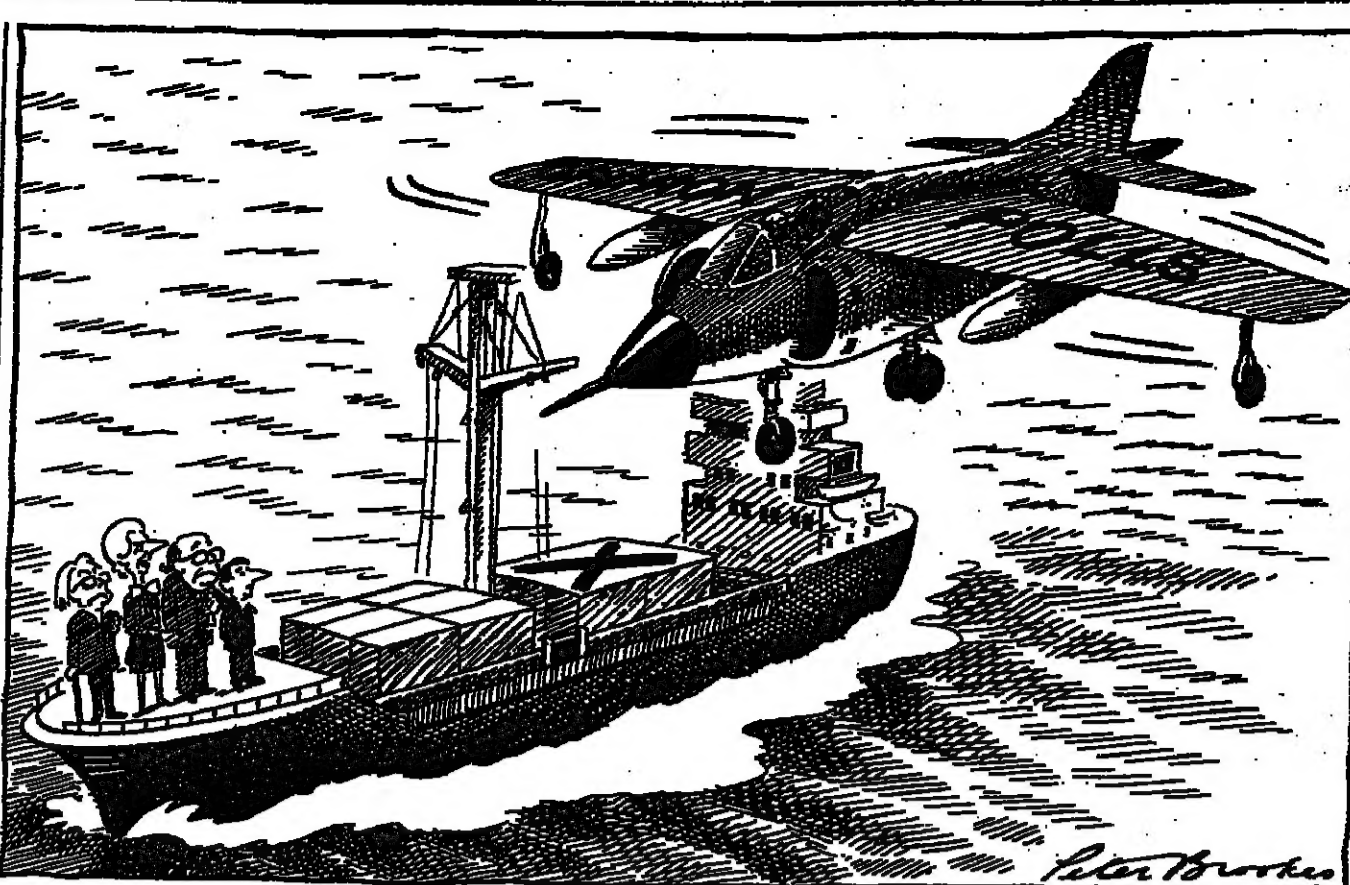
when he extols her ability to remember names and faces. She has paid only three visits during the campaign: that, thinks Thompson, is enough after 24 years in the seat. No big-name guest speakers to support, or upstage her, and no public meetings; just a team of 800 canvassers, and those staring posters.

Since 1979, when they took 32.7 per cent of the vote, Finchley Labour Party has been doing a respectable job of nipping at the Thatcher heels.

Mr Laurence Spiegel, a Camden social worker, aged 33, is the Labour candidate, running his campaign from the back room of his modest East Finchley terrace house. All, he says, is not well in Thatcherland: unemployment in Finchley has trebled since 1979, with 500 redundancies at the main employer, CAV Lucas.

Dr Margaret Joachim, a computer consultant, aged 33, who is standing for the Alliance, takes heart from the fact that in the 1982 local elections, the Alliance polled more votes in Barnet as a whole than Labour, without winning a single seat.

Finchley's voters will have the longest ballot paper of any of the 650 constituencies, with eight fringe candidates competing with the three main parties from the inevitable publicity which the Prime Minister's presence brings.



Pin-point accuracy?

## Chancellor cuts fine figure

By Rodney Cowton

The Conservative campaign truck moved away from the centre of Newport, Isle of Wight, bearing the Chancellor of the Exchequer momentarily the wrong way down a one-way street.

That induced a paroxysm of indignation among bystanding Liberals, one of whom looked as though he might just possibly attempt a citizen's arrest.

Despite that, the Conservative candidate, Mrs Virginia Bottomley, seemed in no doubt that she was moving in the right direction to wrest The Island. It is referred to, from the Liberal, Mr Stephen Ross. Sir Geoffrey Howe was there as part of a day in Wexham, to help the momentum of Mrs Bottomley's campaign.

After the Prime Minister, Sir Geoffrey has been perhaps the central figure in Mrs Thatcher's administration, holding the Government as firmly as he could to its chosen economic strategy.

When heard on radio and television his manner of speaking is so unemphatic, so muted, that one marvels that he has the strength of personality to be so stern a Chancellor.

Seeing him on the stump in the Isle of Wight things become a little clearer. In the flesh his manner is more direct and outgoing. On walkabouts he wastes no time on those who truculently refuse his hand, but when someone good-naturedly declines, Sir Geoffrey insists: "Yes, you must, shaking hands is good for you."

His hand feels strong and heavy, as though it was not unused to physical work. His physique is curious, short in the leg and long in the body, plump but with a yeoman's frame underlying it. Suddenly one realizes that manner and body are in harmony, a superficial, yet somehow difficult, and a degree of bodily flab, both concealing a fairly implacable strength.

He resolutely rejects demands for special tax concessions for various sectional interests, and at Southampton delivers a little homily on the sin of promising too much.

## Regional survey

By Ronald Faux

## Widening North-South rift

The strong running of the Conservatives in the polls has threatened to deepen the traditional divide between North and South with some dark speculations materialising around Sheffield. The leader of the left-wing controlled city council has written to *The Times* giving a warning that political leaders in areas hardest hit by Conservative policies would be demanding maximum separation from central government. Those who had the privilege of leading large and powerful communities, Mr David Blunkett wrote, would have to take whatever steps were necessary to protect the lives and wellbeing of their people.

The expectation in the northern constituencies is that Mr Blunkett will have his divide and that Labour will hold its hard core of seats with some erosion around the edges but nothing that should seriously threaten the powerful Labour enclaves in South Yorkshire, Manchester and Liverpool.

There are margins which on the evidence of the local elections could become Conservative should a landslide materialise - notably Bolton and Bury - but the left supporters are already deepening the moat between West-minister and a number of northern city halls, a division which some political specialists believe is a red herring. They argue that the division which will be intensified by a strong Tory win is not between North and South but between the inner city and urban areas generally against the suburban and rural communities throughout Britain.

New constituency boundaries, a touch of interminable here and there and some strong hopes for the SDP/Alliance could cause some unexpected results in the North and the departure from Parliament of some well-known northern MPs. The ultra-militant Mr Pat Walley, standing as the official Alliance candidate against the

former MP, Mr Ben Ford, in Bradford North is a prime example of the divisions within the Labour Party itself. Mr Ford is standing as independent Labour. Next door in Bradford West Mr Edward Lyons, the sitting member who switched to the SDP, faces another left-wing Labour candidate in Mr Max Madden, the former MP for Sowerby. Mr Madden decided against fighting his old constituency, or the three fifths of it that remain in the sprawling new boundaries of Calder Valley. The new area has a far less predictable political future than Bradford West where there is a strong Labour tradition.

On Merseyside the fact that local government recently swung into the hands of the extreme left appears not to be helping Labour, particularly in the newly-created constituency of Liverpool Broadgreen. The contest there has been bitter between a militant Marxist rebel Liberal, and official Alliance candidate and a right-wing Tory.

## An elder statesman bows out

By Ian Bradley

Mr Jo Grimond has been contemplating this election with mixed emotions. At a national level he sees his long-held dream of a realignment on the left in British politics becoming a reality as the Liberal-SDP Alliance overtakes Labour in the polls.

However, at a personal level he is sad that he will not be in the new Parliament elected today since, on the verge of his seventieth birthday he decided to leave politics after 33 years as MP for Orkney and Shetland.

Last week he undertook a gruelling five-day tour of hopeful Alliance seats from London to Caithness and Sutherland. This week he has been touring the islands of his old constituency in order to ensure that they stay in Liberal hands.

Mr Grimond is amazed at the tactical mistakes which he feels Labour have made in this campaign. He sees it as a collapse from the top.

"It is amazing to me that Labour have not fielded Eric Varley and Peter Shore more



Mr Jo Grimond: A personal manifesto.

expense of developing radical new ideas.

In an effort to promote some of the ideas which he hopes the Alliance will take up, Mr Grimond has written a personal manifesto which was published as a book last week.

His ideas, however, seem closer to those of Mrs Thatcher than to the SDP/Alliance. It firmly rejects a statutory incomes policy, calls for considerably more decentralization and flirts with the ideas of education vouchers and the free market of the Institute of Economic Affairs.

Mr Grimond, however, still sees himself as being closer to the Alliance than the Thatcherite Conservatives. In the long term he hopes the Alliance will become less bland and conservative and strike out in a more radical and libertarian direction, attacking bureaucracy and centralization and the notion that the government can do everything, which he regards as the three great evils of modern political life.

Mr Grimond's personal manifesto is published by Martin Robertson, price £8.95.

## CONSTITUENCY PROFILE Colne Valley

## Rivals' feud fuels brutal fight

Candidates  
R Wainwright (L/All)  
J Holt (C)  
T Ken (Ind)  
A Williams (Lab)

## Profile of COLNE VALLEY

1981 % Own Occ	73
1981 % Loc Auth	75
1981 % Black/Asian	2
1981 % Illid C	48
1981 % Prof man	2
1982 electorate	68,925
1979 BSCP/NTN national result	Lab 2,500 (over 50%)

own home; % Loc auth proportion of council tax; % Black/Asian proportion from New Commonwealth or Pakistan; % Illid C proportion of non-manual workers; % Prof man: Professional, higher managers, and intermediate professions; BSCP/NTN national result: Calculation of what result would have been in 1979 in new boundary constituencies by joint BSCP/NTN study team.

1979 General election: Wainwright R. & J. Holt 56,161; Ken P. J. & Williams 17,756; Ken P. J. & Williams 17,756; Ken P. J. & Williams 17,756.

The peaceful, picturesque hamlets and lush rolling hills of the Colne Valley form an incongruous setting for what has sadly become one of the more brutal election fights, a battle in which personalities seem as much at issue as policies.

Publicly, neither Mr Richard Wainwright, former Liberal Party chairman, nor ex-Liberal Mr John Holt, who is challenging for the Tories, take more than the permitted pot-shots at each other. Most of the time, they are rhetorical blanks.

But privately, enmity runs deep and rumblings of the feud have started to spill over on to voters' doorsteps.

Mr Wainwright, who is fighting his eleventh campaign, has let it be known that he is unwilling to appear on the same public platform as Mr Holt because he believes debating time would be wholly taken up in arguments.

The old Colne Valley constituency has a proud tradition of Liberalism, its people a strong measure of political independence. In 1956 it was the only seat Labour failed to hold throughout the whole of Britain.

Local sport and recreation, Mr Wainwright observes wryly, was tactical voting. Boundary reorganization has changed dramatically many of the old

task. Not only is it the birthplace of his rival but Mr Holt also represents the area on West Yorkshire county council, and has enormous public respect.

Mr Holt, aged 44, an ex-football association referee, plays heavily on his local pedigree. As an exporter of Valley-woven cloth, he says he provides work at six textile mills and as a county councillor, he believes he has a reputation for getting things done for people. He also thinks supporting Huddersfield Town Football Club might be worth a few extra votes.

"People are fed up with politicians shouting and calling each other names," said the candidate who claims to have a virtual army of 500 supporters working on his behalf. "They want someone who will give them practical help."

Mr Wainwright agrees that there is widespread feeling that the North is being neglected in favour of the South-east.

As a newcomer to national politics, Mr Williams, a college lecturer aged 34, acknowledges that he is an outsider. With unemployment at 14.2 per cent, he argues that Colne Valley's cosy image as an enclave of affluence has changed dramatically.

"At the end of the day a handful of votes is going to decide the winner," he forecasts.

Ian Smith

## CONSTITUENCY PROFILE Tooting

## Alliance plays a losing card

CANDIDATES

T. Cox (Lab)  
P. Berbridge (NF)  
R. Harris (C)  
L. Lewis (Comm)  
J. Newberger (SDP/All)  
H. Patel (Eth Min)  
C. Redgrave (WPR)  
M. E. Shaw (ECP)

## Profile of TOOTING

1981 % Own Occ	43.8
1981 % Loc Auth	27.1
1981 % Black/Asian	8.1
1981 % Illid C	57.2
1981 % Prof man	16.6
1982 electorate	68,925
1979 BSCP/NTN national result	Lab 5,500

own home; % Loc auth proportion of council tax; % Black/Asian proportion from New Commonwealth or Pakistan; % Illid C proportion of non-manual workers; % Prof man: Professional, higher managers, and intermediate professions; BSCP/NTN national result: Calculation of what result would have been in 1979 in new boundary constituencies by joint BSCP/NTN study team.

1979 General election: Wainwright R. & J. Holt 56,161; Ken P. J. & Williams 17,756; Ken P. J. & Williams 17,756; Ken P. J. & Williams 17,756.

The new constituency of Tooting is a slice of that south London territory of parks and terraces that separates the inner city decay of Brixton from the suburban avenues around the All-England Tennis Club at Wimbledon.

Once the area returned Ernest Bevin to Parliament, and in the streets of Tooting proper there is still a feel of the old London working class, Labour, but with solid Bevinite views on the nation's defence.

Bevin's supporters are now elderly. Labour's full-time agent, Mr Ken Solly, a 30-year veteran of the area, thinks they will turn out strongly today for Labour because they have been hurt by the spending reductions made by Wandsworth's ostentatiously Thatcherite Conservative council.

But elsewhere in Tooting there is the usual inner London mix: a substantial Asian population, largely unimpressed by the candidacy of Mr Haribhai Patel on behalf of the Confederation of Indian Organizations; middle class gentrifiers, who have recently shifted the Tooting Labour Party leftwards; and a large band of minding people,

who have traditionally given Labour its majority in Tooting.

For 13 years Tooting, on the old boundaries, returned as its Labour MP Mr Tom Cox, who is standing again. "Lacklustre", the Social Democrats call him; but elsewhere, including the Conservative camp, Mr Cox is a "nice chap" with an acknowledged record of constituency case-work. Hardly an ornament of the legislative chamber, Mr Cox seems to be the type of MP who cannot walk down Balham High Street without a cheery greeting from a constituent he has helped in some way.

Despite voting for Mr Denis Healey in the Labour leadership stakes, Mr Cox's position has not been threatened, although some have noted a higher ratio of self-consciously left-wing rhetoric in the campaign literature.

Beyond what the respective manifestos say about peace, jobs, freedom and a fresh start, the issues in Tooting are these: Mr Cox is seeking to mesh his constituency service record with criticism of hospital closure and Wandsworth council.

Conservative-run since 1978,

the council will score Conservative points with ratepayers but its cuts in social services have stung, and the much-vaunted privatization of refuse collection is running into local criticism.

The Conservative candidate is a cerebral figure: Mr Robin Harris, fresh from a stint at Sir Geoffrey Howe's elbow as Treasury special adviser. Since Tooting and monetarism might not be compatible, Mr Harris is making a strong down-market play for the working-class anti-crime vote.

The Alliance card is the personality of the Social Democrat candidate, Mrs Julia Newberger, who is a minor media celebrity. She is a vivacious figure, the female rabbi of the Liberal Jewish synagogue.

Mr Newberger admits that in a more heavily Jewish constituency, the liberality of her theological positions might well have told against her. As it is, Tooting's minorities, who include the Poles, the Irish and the West Indians, seem plugged into the traditional party set-up.

Despite the Alliance's characteristically naive hopes, Tooting is a straight two-way fight. Mrs Doreen Purefoy, the conservative agent drafted in from Surrey for the duration, estimated that the Conservatives need a swing of about 3.8 per cent, allowing for the new boundaries. "There will be a close fight between Tory and Labour, with a recent," she predicted.

David Walker



Pym accuses Labour

Powell faces toughest fight

Guide to broadcasting

ELECTION JUNE 83

## Pym criticizes Labour for ignoring 'vote losing' EEC

By Amanda Haigh

Mr Francis Pym, Secretary of State for Foreign Commonwealth Affairs, yesterday accused the Labour Party of deliberately ignoring the EEC during the election campaign because they knew it was a vote-loser.

"It is because the Labour Party realizes taking us out is a very unpopular line and the British people realize it is very much in our interests politically and economically to remain in the Community. For that reason it has not really been an issue. There is no doubt we have won the argument decisively," he said at the Conservatives' early morning press conference.

Moments earlier, at the Labour conference, Mr Michael Foot, had been asked why he had not included withdrawal from the EEC among the five priorities he has just set out for a future Labour Government. None of the Labour press conferences has been devoted to this issue and Mr Eric Heffer, the party's European and Community affairs spokesman, has not been used at the conference.

Mr Foot said there had been no exclusion or attempt to

## Hiding doubt in the green hills of co. Down

If this campaign proves to be Mr Enoch Powell's last hurrah at the hustings, his supporters will remember for years the scene at his penultimate meeting in a small town perched high above the lush green fields of co. Down.

He marched with his wife, Pamela, into Rathfriland's Church square amid a riot of colourful uniforms as seven bands, from accordion to flute and bagpipe to silver, brought crowds onto the streets.

Nothing emitting from the cacophony of sound appeared to be beating a retreat for Official Unionist hopes in the marginal constituency. Although their names would be tongue twisters for anyone outside Ulster, their presence to support Mr Powell is a clear indication of how hard he is having to fight to hold the seat he first won in 1974.

It is well known among Unionists that Mr Powell does not greatly favour bands at his election rallies, but they are a powerful attraction and highly symbolic in loyalist politics. As one Official Unionist said: "Paisley's lot came through here and could only muster one of their own bands. That's how bad they are doing."

Yet another potent symbol was at Mr Powell's side as he sat with party dignitaries on the back of a truck draped with the Union flag. Lady Brookebo-

rough, widow of Northern Ireland Prime Minister between 1942-63, was there and in cash no one had noticed the audience were reminded that she came from old Loyalist stock and was lending her support.

Even the Queen and Queen Mother got a mention in a speech in which the local assembly representative castigated the Democratic Unionist Party before making an inadvertent slip when he advised people to put a cross at the name of Mr Powell which was "at the bottom of the poll".

While other speakers attack their opponents and warn of the danger of handing the seat to a Republican, Mr Powell has struck throughout to three themes. They are passionately expounded with all his formidable logic.

His 300-strong audience of ruddy faced country people do not appear to warm to him but are impressed that someone of his international standing is their candidate, backing their cause.

Nowhere is too small for him to stop and nowhere is too hostile a territory. "I am now going to talk to the sheep at the crossroads, then I will do the impossible, and make a Unionist speech in Castledillon," he announced on leaving a small pebbledash housing estate.

He did both with only one house at the crossroads, and in Castledillon the Provisional Sinn Féin banners were fluttering across the main street.

Official Unionist hopes are high that Mr Powell will hold the seat, but even among the



Mr Powell canvassing in Dundrum, co. Down, while Mr Christopher Gibbons, right, goes in search of a Labour supporter in Sutton Coldfield

## Where optimism is a Labour rally

With just 24 hours left to win over the hearts and minds of voters in Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, the safest Conservative seat in Britain, the Labour candidate, Mr Christopher Gibbons, a barrister, stuck to his well-tried campaign programme yesterday morning and

prosecuted shoplifters and careless motorists in a nearby magistrates' court.

It is not that Mr Gibbons has given up any hope of victory. Such wild thoughts never entered his mind in the first place. "You have to take a realistic view of the matter. You are probably not going to win and the next thing that follows," he says, pausing, "... is that you are going to come third."

Sutton Coldfield, the least working-class constituency outside London, is to the Tories

what Rhondda is to Labour - impregnable. Mr Norman Fowler, its fortunate MP since 1974, attracted almost 70 per cent of the votes cast in 1979 and the chance of Mr Gibbons ending the local hegemony today is as likely as Screaming Lord Sutch defeating Mrs Thatcher in Finchley.

And so the former Birmingham city councillor has spent most mornings during the campaign prosecuting for the local police before daring to venture out and receive his daily ration of abuse and mockery from Sutton Coldfield's massed true-blue ranks.

Flying the Labour flag in such a Tory bastion calls for novel campaign and organizational tactics. His first step was to pay a £5 insurance premium to cover himself against the near certainty of losing his £150 election deposit.

Having borrowed a motorcycle from the Triumph Meriden Cooperative, and proudly declaring himself to be the only motor-cycling Labour candidate in the country, Mr Gibbons has a BBC TV crew went in search of a voter. If the idea had not been eventually scrapped, they would probably still be continuing the search.

Despite the hopelessness of his cause, the personal knocks and vilification, Mr Gibbons confesses to having enjoyed the contest and looks forward to a future parliamentary battle. Will it be in Sutton Coldfield again? "Nobody is ever asked to run here twice."

Richard Evans

Richard Ford

## General election results

Date	Turnout %
November 14, 1935	71.2
July 5, 1945	72.7
February 23, 1950	84.0
October 25, 1951	82.5
May 26, 1955	78.7
October 8, 1959	78.8
October 15, 1964	77.1
March 31, 1966	75.8
June 18, 1970	72.0
February 28, 1974	78.7
October 10, 1974	72.8
May 3, 1979	78.0

The trickiest question was faced by Mr Pym, who was asked for his view of the landslide which Mrs Thatcher has said she wants, but about which he had previously expressed doubts. Replying, he took the lead of the Prime Minister in *The Times* yesterday: "It is up to the British people tomorrow and we will settle for whatever, in their wisdom, they give us."

## 'Abrasive' Toryism attacked by Steel

By Barbara Day

Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party, "At the moment it looks as though there is going to be a Conservative victory. All the polls indicate that. Therefore the question is how substantial is the victory going to be, and what controlling interest is the Alliance going to be able to have on the Government."

"I think a lot of Conservative voters who believe in the old one-nation style of Conservatism are going to draw back from giving an endorsement to the new, abrasive and harsh Toryism that we see today and I think they will switch to the Alliance."

"I think that it would be a disaster if we had a major landslide for the Conservative Party because I think that the divisions in our society will increase over the next four or five years and that cannot be healthy for the country." (ITN, News at One.)

Mr Michael Foot, leader of the Labour Party, "I believe Labour can win. I believe we are going to fight very hard tomorrow. I have seen the marginal constituencies where we are fighting and that is where the thing is going to be decided and I believe that the individual evidence that we have justifies this. I think the SDP or the Alliance, or whatever they call themselves, are going to be wiped out as an effective force."

## BROADCASTING

When the votes come in

Back page

in the next Parliament and the only way, therefore, the Thatcher Government can be defeated is through the Labour Party." (ITN, News at One.)

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, "The Conservative Party consists of people who come from all walks of life and the policy is for people in all walks of life. The really divisive policies are those of the Labour Party, who start to talk about class war, class struggle, all the old Marxist language. That is outdated. It is not suitable for Britain. I thought in the first Parliament which I came into in Harold Macmillan's time we had got rid of all that stuff. It is ridiculous. It belongs to a different age. They brought it back and it is they who deliberately set out to be divisive. We are British and I do not divide between one group and another."

"I have not used power autocratically in any way, nor should I use it autocratically. I am a devout believer in democracy and the ballot box and this is the only authority that any government has - the authority given to it by the people." (ITN News at One.)

## Early pointers to result

Within seconds of the polling booths closing at 10pm tonight, both BBC and ITN will flash an early prediction of the general election result to millions of television viewers.

Their forecasts will be based on thousands of interviews carried out during the day with voters as they leave the polls in specially chosen constituencies.

ITN is interviewing 10,000 people spread over the 110 most marginal seats in addition to further estimated 4,000 voters in 40 more seats, who form a typical cross-section of the population. The same formula, employed in

1974 and 1979 provided ITN with a remarkably accurate prediction of the outcome.

The BBC is interviewing 4,500 electors in more than 300 constituencies. "I hope that the 1983 BBC survey will be at least as accurate as the first one I did for the 1979 election. Our prediction then was spot on," Professor Ivor Crewe, of the department of government at Essex University said yesterday.

More than 40 countries will have British television coverage sent by satellite from British Telecom's earth stations at Gochilly, near Land's end and Madley, Hereford.

## TV and radio broadcasts

**TODAY** 10.00am-10.15pm, Election - 20 minutes, presented by David Dimbleby, Peter Snow, and John Peel. 10.15pm-10.30pm, Election - 15 minutes, presented by David Dimbleby, Peter Snow, and John Peel. 10.30pm-10.45pm, Election - 15 minutes, presented by David Dimbleby, Peter Snow, and John Peel. 10.45pm-11.00pm, Election - 15 minutes, presented by David Dimbleby, Peter Snow, and John Peel. 11.00pm-11.15pm, Election - 15 minutes, presented by David Dimbleby, Peter Snow, and John Peel. 11.15pm-11.30pm, Election - 15 minutes, presented by David Dimbleby, Peter Snow, and John Peel. 11.30pm-11.45pm, Election - 15 minutes, presented by David Dimbleby, Peter Snow, and John Peel. 11.45pm-12.00am, Election - 15 minutes, presented by David Dimbleby, Peter Snow, and John Peel.

**Tomorrow** 7.00am-7.15am, Election - 15 minutes, presented by David Dimbleby, Peter Snow, and John Peel. 7.15am-7.30am, Election - 15 minutes, presented by David Dimbleby, Peter Snow, and John Peel. 7.30am-7.45am, Election - 15 minutes, presented by David Dimbleby, Peter Snow, and John Peel. 7.45am-8.00am, Election - 15 minutes, presented by David Dimbleby, Peter Snow, and John Peel. 8.00am-8.15am, Election - 15 minutes, presented by David Dimbleby, Peter Snow, and John Peel. 8.15am-8.30am, Election - 15 minutes, presented by David Dimbleby, Peter Snow, and John Peel. 8.30am-8.45am, Election - 15 minutes, presented by David Dimbleby, Peter Snow, and John Peel. 8.45am-9.00am, Election - 15 minutes, presented by David Dimbleby, Peter Snow, and John Peel. 9.00am-9.15am, Election - 15 minutes, presented by David Dimbleby, Peter Snow, and John Peel. 9.15am-9.30am, Election - 15 minutes, presented by David Dimbleby, Peter Snow, and John Peel. 9.30am-9.45am, Election - 15 minutes, presented by David Dimbleby, Peter Snow, and John Peel. 9.45am-10.00am, Election - 15 minutes, presented by David Dimbleby, Peter Snow, and John Peel.

# HOW GREAT WILL BRITAIN BE TOMORROW?



Some people think that the country has had its day. They're wrong. The new Britain is busy helping the world to benefit from the new technologies.

In aviation, telecommunications, health care and massive industrial projects. In the marriage of computer and communications technologies.

In worldwide recruitment and training services. This is the work of IAL in over fifty countries. Our Annual Report, published today (our Company Secretary will be happy to post you a copy) shows that in 1982 clients paid over £220m for our services.

What did they get for their money? The answer is a very rare property. Teamwork that blends together millions of man-hours of experience in airport development and management, communications, computers, medical, oceanographic and meteorological services, to handle the most complex of turnkey projects.

A company which ensures that British equipment is specified whenever possible for any package. A better understanding of local conditions, gained through decades of global activity.

Every day IAL rubs shoulders with your world. X-ray security systems at international airports check your plane doesn't become a flying bomb.

Computer based communications not only help the High Street banks and building societies but gain the police and emergency services those vital extra seconds.

London's Air Traffic Control Centre at West Drayton is being equipped with an IAL Stratus communications system. It will play a vital part in the safe handling of traffic entering or leaving British airspace.

Off-shore, IAL air traffic controllers handle around 25,000 North Sea Oil helicopter movements a month.

While overseas, the company is contracted to manage major hospital complexes.

In April IAL became part of STC, one of Britain's leading telecommunications and electronics groups. A move that provides access to enormous 'high-tech' resources, and even greater market opportunities.

IAL, and the skills of thousands upon thousands of people in other companies, are proof that British technology and know-how is in world demand today.

And will be tomorrow.

- 1947 IAL formed as International Aeradio Limited by 12 airlines to provide aviation navigation and communications services.
- 1950s Turkey telecommunications projects in East Africa, Caribbean, Pakistan and Sudan. Inland overseas subsidiary and associate companies formed. First training schools and consultancy projects undertaken.
- 1960s First projects in North Sea and satellite telecommunications. Public telephone companies in United Arab Emirates inaugurated. Computer systems group established.
- 1970s Development of electronics manufacturing capability. Products such as IAL Medusa data network management and IAL Stratus voice communications switching systems launched. Acquisition of CPM, Britain's largest independent computer maintenance company.
- 1980s Major expansion in USA. Acquisition of Ocean Data Systems Inc. and Global Weather Dynamics Inc. enhances environmental services capability. Take-over of Kalbar Corporation provides vehicle for computer maintenance involvement in US market. Contribution to provision of technical services at UK regional airports increases substantially.
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## African unity at stake

# Polisario Front agrees pullout to prevent OAU summit collapse

Addis Ababa (Reuters, AFP, AP)

The Polisario Front yesterday agreed to pull out of the nineteenth summit of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), clearing the way for an end to the crisis which has threatened the organisation's existence.

Mr Ibrahim Hakim, Foreign Minister of the Polisario Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR), said his movement had agreed to the concession for the sake of African unity.

States opposed to Polisario participation in the summit had threatened to boycott the meeting in protest at its presence.

Mr Hakim made his announcement as heads of state began arriving for the summit, which at one stage looked as if it might turn into a gathering of only those states which back the SADR.

Delegates said it was almost certain the concession would make it possible for the 51-member organisation to raise a quorum of 34 member states.

The OAU last held a proper summit in Nairobi two years ago. All subsequent attempts to hold one have been abandoned without a quorum because of an

even split between the radical and moderate camps.

Mr Hakim insisted, however, that the SADR still remained a full OAU member and that the decision to pull out was taken after a meeting a few hours earlier with the outgoing OAU chairman, President Moi of Kenya, was voluntary and "in conformity with our wish to safeguard African unity".

Mr Hakim also said the SADR was concerned "to reinforce African unity threatened by Moroccan expansionism, supported by US imperialism".

He said the decision to abstain was only binding on the nineteenth summit. The question of where and when the twentieth is to be held is on the agenda for this summit.

Polisario guerrillas have been fighting Morocco for control of the western Sahara since the former Spanish colonial admin-

istration pulled out in 1976.

The Polisario quarrel has paralysed the OAU since February, 1982, when Mr Edem Kodjo of Togo the OAU secretary-general, decided at a meeting of foreign ministers in Addis Ababa to admit Polisario as the OAU's fifty-first member. They joined under the name of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic.

Morocco led a boycott of 19 nations at that meeting, preventing a quorum of 34 members. Since then the OAU has not been able to hold ministerial or summit meetings for lack of the two-thirds quorum.

Since African leaders gathered here over the weekend there has been an intensive round of bilateral and committee discussions to try to defuse the dispute.

On Tuesday evening an informal plenary session was called, and it served as a test of Moroccan support. Mr Peter Oni, the assistant secretary-general, said that 19 nations boycotted the two-hour session.

## Gaddafi roadshow dazzles Addis

Addis Ababa (NYT) - Under the walls of Africa Hall, where the Organisation of African Unity remained locked in a possibly terminal dispute, there is a modest side-show for those not privy to the deliberations within.

It is the travelling road show that surrounds Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan Leader, making him a flamboyant diversion from more staid, African styles.

He arrived here unexpectedly, on Sunday, with an entourage of 150 in three aircraft. That perplexed even President Omar Bongo of Gabon who had flown in on board a personalized DCB aircraft.

The Libyan leader is reported

to be staying not with other heads of state in a hotel, but in a private villa whence he departs for his public appearances.

A maroon, stretched Mercedes packed with bodyguards will screech to a halt outside the blue-carpeted steps of Africa Hall, where the organization has been decimated by a decision that threatens its survival over the Polisario guerrillas who Colonel Gaddafi, among others supports.

The Cameramen focus their lenses on the Mercedes, but Colonel Gaddafi steps out of a more modest BMW car, a play presumably to foil assassins at the hall. The Libyan team behave as if they own the place. After a meeting on Tuesday, for instance, heads of

African States and governments queued patiently for their cars, but not Colonel Gaddafi. Sweeping past Africa's elder statesmen, he descended the steps, clambered into his BMW and sped off. Sometimes, his aides will depart clinging to the back of sand-coloured Range Rovers.

It does not go down too well with Ethiopian security men, who prevented some of Colonel Gaddafi's bodyguards from entering their conference hall. They apparently had orders to stop all bodyguards and that led to a fracas when Congolese bodyguards tried to burst through the Ethiopians and accompany their own leader, President Denis Sassou-Nguessu.

## German churchmen fear peace group takeover

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

The German Evangelical Church yesterday began a five-day convention in Hanover that has already provoked sharp political controversy because of accusations that it will be dominated by the peace movement, whose members are attending in large numbers.

The two-yearly predominantly lay gathering has attracted some 112,000 participants, of whom two thirds are under 25, a clear indication of the important role the church is now playing in young people's views on the peace question. Many will be urging the influential church to take a decisive stand against the deployment of new Nato missiles in West Germany.

In an evident attempt to stop the adoption of a decision politically embarrassing to the Government, Chancellor Helmut Kohl, yesterday reaffirmed in a special article

for the Evangelical Church newspaper the importance of the Nato two-track decision as a means of reaching a balanced reduction of arms in Europe.

Herr Wolfgang Rumpff, a Free Democratic MP also called on Christians of all denominations not to dissipate their energies in demonstrations against what he called the peace policies of the Government.

Before the opening there was fierce dispute over the intention by some 100 peace groups to wear purple scarves, a symbol of the peace movement, bearing the slogan "Now is the time for an unequivocal 'no' to all weapons of mass destruction" at all meetings including the closing church services. Two bishops said they would not attend in protest, saying that the convention held under the motto of "Return to Life" had been turned into a demonstration.

## Elton John takes home old China

From David Bonavia, Peking

Elton John, the singer, has bought \$50,000 worth of antiques during the tour here by Watford Football Club, of which he is chairman.

When Mr John expressed an interest in antiques, he was taken to an export warehouse near Peking and bought many items, including large lions carved in stone. "He just went in and said: 'I'll have this, that, and that,'" a club source said.

Last night, Watford triumphed over the Chinese national team 5-0, after winning previous matches in Shanghai and Peking.

Mr John gave an impromptu concert last night at the luxury hotel where the club were staying in the Western Hills, near Peking.

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## Mrs Gandhi 'a soul in agony'

Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, left, with Mrs Milka Planinc, President of the Yugoslav Federal Executive Council, after the Indian leader's arrival in Belgrade yesterday for a 48-hour official visit to Yugoslavia.

Mrs Gandhi, who is on the first leg of a European tour that will take her to Finland, Denmark, Norway and Aus-

tralia, is the current President of the non-aligned movement. She later addressed the sixth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad) which opened in Belgrade on Monday, AFP and AP report.

In her speech she made a passionate plea for peace, calling for "non-violence" in today's world dominated by

"new methods and forms of colonialism."

"I am a soul in agony," she told delegates. "As one who feels passionately about freedom, I cannot but be alarmed at the continuing pushing domination" of Third World countries by powers she did not identify.

Unctad optimism, page 21

## Freed relief team gets near Sudan

From Michael Horisby, Johannesburg

Khartoum (Reuters) - A team of foreign relief workers recently freed after being kidnapped by guerrillas in Ethiopia have crossed a flood-swollen river on their journey back to freedom and are close to Sudan, reports said here yesterday.

A spokesman for the Tigre People's Liberation Front told reporters that the workers had reached a point some 30 miles east of Kassala in eastern Sudan, after crossing the Upper Gash river in Eritrea.

"We are happy their suffering, due to circumstances beyond our control, has now ended," Gerbu Towelle, the spokesman said.

The team of four Britons, two Irish, two Italians and one American were abducted on April 21 and freed last week.

Mr Towelle said they were escorted on their journey by 10 guerrillas of the IPFL which seeks Tigre's independence from Ethiopia. It was now up to the Sudanese authorities to allow the group into Sudan, he added.

"We have kept our word to free the workers, they are all in good shape despite bad weather conditions."

British Embassy officials said arrangements were being made to bring the group from Kassala to Khartoum by lorry or aircraft and then fly them to London.

## ANC guerrilla in last-minute appeal for stay of execution

From Michael Horisby, Johannesburg

The South African Government, unmoved by a flood of eleven-hour appeals for clemency from all over the world, yesterday said that the hanging of three African National Congress guerrillas would take place as planned at dawn today.

However, lawyers representing Mr Marcus Moteng, one of the condemned men, made a final attempt late yesterday to obtain a stay of execution, with an application to the Pretoria Supreme Court. If the application succeeded it would probably mean a reprieve for the other two.

The three men had earlier refused to make such an application, saying they had prepared themselves for death. But Mr Moteng changed his mind after being persuaded by relatives who visited him on "death row" yesterday morning.

The EEC's demarche was delivered on Tuesday to Mr Hans Van Dalsen, the Director-General of Foreign Affairs, by Herr Carl Lahusen, the West German Ambassador to South Africa.

West Germany at present holds the EEC presidency. Leaders of the British Labour and Alliance parties sent messages of their own to Mr P. W. Botha, the South African Prime Minister, calling for clemency. A spokesman for the South

African Mission at the United Nations was quoted as branding the Security Council resolution a gross interference in South Africa's affairs, which would be treated with the contempt it deserved.

More than 50 US senators and congressmen, including three Democratic presidential candidates, Mr Walter Mondale, Mr Gary Hart and Mr Alan Cranston, also sent cables to Mr Botha.

In another move, the Seychelles Government offered on Tuesday to set free four condemned mercenaries and two others serving long-term prison sentences, among them some Britons, if the three ANC members were reprieved.

Reports in the South African press claimed that the last-minute appeals, which included a joint demarche by the 10 member-states of the EEC and a resolution passed unanimously by the United Nations Security Council late of Tuesday, were discussed yesterday by the Executive Council, the Cabinet sitting with the State President as chairman.

However, a spokesman for the council told *The Times*: "Representations of this nature and similar content have already been considered by the executive council, and a final decision has been taken."

A Foreign Office statement said in part: "We have told the South African Charge d'Affaires of the foreign Secretary's personal hope that even at this late stage the matter could be further considered."

The spokesman would neither confirm nor deny that there had been any further discussion of the matter at an Executive Council meeting yesterday.

On Monday, Mr Marais Viljoen, the State President, announced that Mr Simon Mogoerane, Mr Jerry Mosololi and Mr Motaung, all blacks in their twenties, would hang today for their part in armed attacks on three police stations, in which four black policemen were killed and several civilians injured.

At the same time, he commuted to terms of life imprisonment the death sentences passed on Mr Anthony Tsotsobe, Mr Johannes Shabangu and Mr David Moise, who were involved in acts of sabotage as well as attacks on a police station and the home of a black constable, but did not cause any deaths.

● LONDON: British has urged its embassy in Cape Town to try to persuade the South African authorities to reprieve the men, Henry Stanhope writes.

A Foreign Office statement said in part: "We have told the South African Charge d'Affaires of the foreign Secretary's personal hope that even at this late stage the matter could be further considered."

## The first test-tube triplets born

Adelaide (Reuters) - An Australian woman gave birth to the world's first test-tube triplets yesterday, two girls and a boy, delivered a month premature by Caesarian section. A spokesman for Adelaide's Flinders medical centre said mother and babies were in good health and progressing well. The mother was not identified nor the weight of the triplets given.

The test-tube baby technique is used mainly on women who cannot conceive normally due to blocked fallopian tubes. Her eggs are surgically removed, fertilized in a test tube by the husband's sperm, and replaced in the woman.

## Mercy mission man due back

Dr Andrew Doig, the Church of Scotland emissary sent to Malawi to plead for mercy for Mr Orton Chirwa, the country's former Justice Minister, and his wife, is expected back in Britain today.

The Chirwas, sentenced to death for treason last month, were due to hang today, but it is understood they are now appealing for clemency.

## Volga disaster toll put at 240

Moscow (AP) - The death toll from Sunday's Volga river cruise ship disaster was at least 240, unofficial Soviet sources reported. Four railway carriages had plunged from the bridge hit by the ship.

No official death toll has yet been issued but the sources said they got their information from friends from Ulyanovsk who are visiting Moscow.

## Andropov doubt

Bonn (Reuters) - The West German Government said yesterday it had no evidence that Mr Yuri Andropov, the Soviet leader, was seriously ill, and that the planned visit by Chancellor Helmut Kohl to Moscow on July 4 would go ahead.

## Hawke in Paris

Paris (AP) - Mr Bob Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister, arrived in Paris yesterday for a round of talks with French leaders that is expected to focus on Australia's opposition to France's nuclear weapons testing in the South Pacific.

## Claim denied

Washington - The Reagan Administration was branded as "patently false" the contention of an anti-Zionist committee in Moscow that the majority of Jews who desired to emigrate from the Soviet Union had already left.

## Pilots eject

The Hague (Reuters) - A USAF Phantom reconnaissance aircraft based in England crashed at Oudeschep, northeast of Groningen, yesterday but the two pilots ejected safely, the Dutch Defence Ministry said.

## Flagged down

Harare (Reuters) - An African businessman running a curio shop in Bulawayo has been arrested for the possession of flags and army insignia of the former Rhodesia. Their sale on display was banned in 1981.

## Golfer's suit

New York (AP) - Severiano Ballesteros, the Spanish golfer, has filed a suit for unspecified damages against the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., charging it used his picture in advertisements without permission or payment.

## Out of tune

Frankfurt (AP) - An embarrassed USAF band apologized to the Yugoslav national football team after playing the pre-war national anthem, harking up play in the match against West Germany for 30 minutes while a search was made for the proper music.

## Seven killed

Johannesburg (AP) - Seven people leaving a wedding died when their twin-engine private aircraft crashed after take-off from Cape Town.

## Exiles return

Harare (Reuters) - Botswana has sent back about 70 Zimbabwean exiles who illegally fled across the border from the troubled province of Matabeleland.

## Own goal

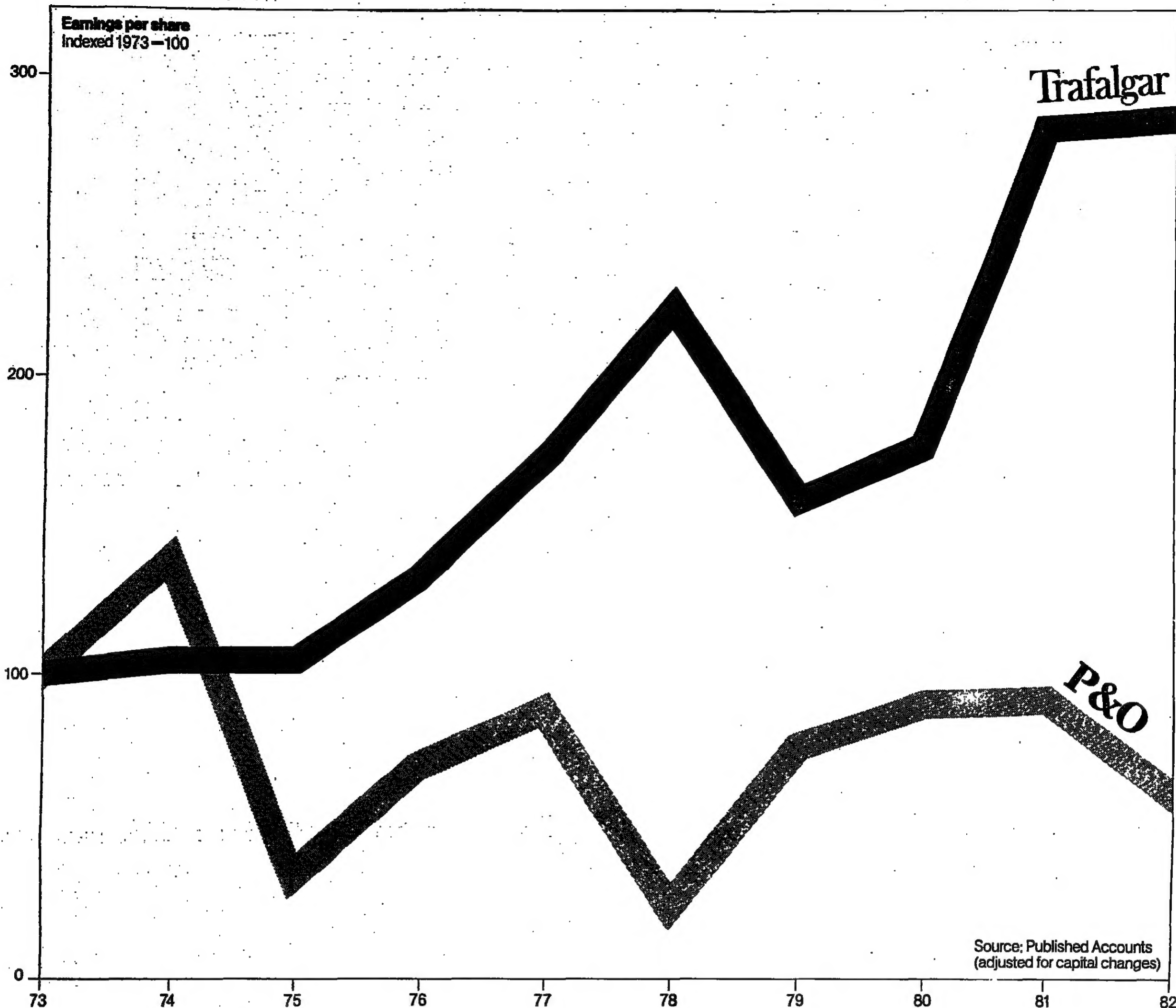
Stockholm (AP) - A Swedish navy mineslayer firing an anti-aircraft gun scored a direct hit on its own bridge during an exercise in waters south of here, a naval spokesman said. No one was hurt.

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2. What profit is P&O forecasting for 1983? Trafalgar has already predicted a record year.
3. Why has P&O's average return on

shareholders' funds been under 9% for the last ten years when Trafalgar's has been over 30%?

4. Why has P&O found it necessary to dip into its reserves to pay dividends for three years out of the last ten, when Trafalgar has always paid dividends out of current profits?

5. Why should I continue to be a shareholder in a company whose management has consistently produced nothing but decline and disappointment - when I have the opportunity to join up with another

British company whose management has produced such impressive growth in the same fields?

6. Finally, are P&O's emotive efforts to have Trafalgar's bid referred to the Monopolies Commission really in my best interests? Should I not have the right to decide on the bid's merits myself?

If this line of questioning produces nothing more concrete than a few optimistic noises about the future, we would suggest that you look again at the two lines in the graph and draw your own conclusions.

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## Scandal of wife burning reaches epidemic proportions in Delhi

From Michael Hussey, Delhi

Nine women died in Delhi last week because their fathers did not pay their husbands enough dowry. The traditional Indian way for wives to die is by fire and, sure enough, eight of the women were doused in paraffin, set alight, and left to blaze furiously. The ninth was poisoned.

In some cases their deaths were described as suicide, in some as murder. In some cases their husbands or mothers-in-law were charged with murder, in others with abetting a suicide.

The scandal of wife-burning is reaching epidemic proportions in Delhi. The figures are known here because someone in the police department keeps count - no one in the rest of India bothers to do so much. Last year, 260 young women in Delhi died of burns.

The most recent was Padma-wati Khurana, aged 23, who was married on May 4 and died on June 4. She was married to a transport company clerk, Mr Anil Khurana, aged 25, and her dowry included a refrigerator, a sofa, 31 saris and other clothes. Her two brothers-in-law re-

ceived two safari suits each and her mother-in-law was given a ring.

It was all that her father, a vegetable seller, aged 80, could afford. But it was not enough.

Nine days after the marriage, Mrs Khurana was back home, complaining of ill-treatment and saying her husband wanted a scooter and help in paying for a house. Help was promised and she went back to her husband. The bickering continued, and, despite the gift of more clothing, her in-laws were not satisfied.

The traditional way out was taken: After a quarrel that lasted from 11.30 at night until 2.30 in the morning, her body was discovered in her in-laws' bathroom, barely recognizable.

What was unusual in this case was the public outcry and demonstration which followed her death. An angry mob gathered and threatened to lynch the mother-in-law and the husband's brother and sisters, who were all arrested. The husband is missing.

Public concern at these appalling deaths is being voiced. Recently, members of a family involved in wife-burning were

sentenced to death, the first time this has happened. The offence was particularly unpleasant, since the young wife was eight months pregnant, and the killing had obviously been done so that the husband would not be encumbered with a child while he looked for a second wife and a second dowry.

Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister, commenting in Parliament last month on the scandal, said neighbours should be vigilant and let the authorities know "when they apprehend any dowry harassment case". She has also urged a social boycott of those who accept dowry payment. That, however, regarded as too large a task, calling for immense social change.

That change will come eventually, with the growth in numbers of Indian women who are wage-earners in their own right. But until that happens there are immense pressures on a father to try to buy an appropriate bridegroom for his daughter early, so that he should not be burdened with her upkeep as age makes her less acceptable as a wife.



## Honecker snubs departing envoy

From Michael Baynes, Bonn

Mr Pyotr Abramov, the Soviet Ambassador in East Berlin, met Herr Richard von Weizsäcker, the Mayor of West Berlin, on Tuesday evening at the West Berlin Government guest house for a final discussion before Mr Abramov's recall to Moscow.

His reception in the western half of the divided city was in marked contrast to the deliberate snub that appears to have been given to him by Herr Erich Honecker, the East German party leader, who refused to receive him as protocol demanded. Instead, Mr Abramov took his official leave from Herr Willi Stoph, the Prime Minister.

That this was intended as a deliberate affront to a man who ranked as one of the most senior and important Soviet ambassadors in the world was underlined by the fact that on the same day Herr Honecker received two African ambassadors.

Herr Honecker is known to have got along badly with Mr Abramov, whose pro-consular manner left visitors in no doubt that he considered himself as the real power in East Berlin, and who often negotiated with the Western allies over the heads of the East German leaders. Commentators here have speculated that Herr Honecker may have made his dislike plain to Mr Yuri Andropov, the Soviet leader, when he paid a state visit to Moscow recently.

Mr Abramov's departure is not thought to signal any fundamental change in Soviet policy towards Germany, East or West, and is more likely to be connected with Mr Andropov's steady change of long-serving party cadres.

## Soviet intellectuals fear plenum will tighten controls

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Moscow intellectuals say they are worried that the forthcoming plenum of the Soviet Central Committee will lead to a further "ideological turn of the screw" restricting Soviet intellectual and artistic life.

The Central Committee is due to meet on Tuesday, for the first time since November, when Mr Yuri Andropov became party leader. Ideology is one of Mr Andropov's main concerns, and is expected to dominate the plenum. Mr Andropov had long experience of suppressing and countering ideological "deviations" during his 15 years as head of the KGB (secret police), and was party secretary with responsibility for ideological questions from April 1982 until his election as leader.

One academic said: "I have never heard of a plenum on ideology which led to a liberalization of intellectual life. It is always the other way round."

There have been a series of warnings in *Pravda* and other Soviet news papers against ideological "deviations", and repeated calls for communist vigilance in the arts.

Sources said that having acquired power, Mr Andropov wished to consolidate it by imposing strict central control. He may bring some of the key figures responsible for internal

control closer to the central party institutions.

Both General Vitaly Fedorchuk, the Interior Minister, and General Viktor Chebrikov, head of the KGB, are personally associated with Mr Andropov. But General Fedorchuk is not a member of the Central Committee, although he is a deputy to the less important Supreme Soviet.

General Chebrikov became a full Central Committee member in 1981, but is not a candidate member of the Politburo.

Arts crackdown: Soviet theatre, book and art critics were ordered by *Pravda* yesterday to crack down on signs of western influence in new creative works and so more to ensure orthodox communist values were upheld, Reuter reports.

A leading article in the party organ accused critics of taking a sloppy attitude towards their work. It said most of them turned out only compliments of the productions they were reviewing and not analyses their faults.

This was part of the reason for the growth of a " nihilistic attitude towards important traditions" in the arts, it said. Works of art could criticize some shortcomings in society only from a firm communist standpoint.

## British bird-watchers held in Turkey

Istanbul (AP) - Turkish security guards seized two British bird-watchers in a swamp area bordering Greece, a local public prosecutor said yesterday.

Mr Esen Ay, the prosecutor, in Ence, a coastal resort town one mile from the Greek frontier, said four people were taken into custody by police late on Tuesday.

Mr Ay, reached by telephone

from Istanbul, confirmed that the group "attempted a violation of a prohibited military zone" along the Mariza River which separates European Turkey from Greece.

The prosecutor said the arrested group included two British nationals and two Turkish guides. However, he refused to identify them. They were expected to go before a

civilian judge soon to see if they would face charges, he said.

A spokesman for the Turkish Wildlife Society identified one of the British scientists as Mr Simon Albrecht, of Cambridge.

They were on a two-week holiday in Thrace to watch birds in the area, a wetland region internationally famous for its rare birds. The area is an important breeding area for dozens of migrating birds.

## Pit toll rises to 10

A miner and a woman doctor carrying breathing apparatus from the coal mine at Aleksinac, Serbia, where 10 miners died in an explosion of methane gas, AP reports. More than 50 were injured in the blast, which trapped 140 men 2,500 ft underground.

Early yesterday rescue teams managed to evacuate the survivors.

Belgrade Radio said a

fire had been smoldering in the mine for several days, and firemen had been trying to extinguish it when the explosion occurred. Three engineers investigating the fire were among those killed.

It was not known whether the fire caused the blast, however. One official said a short circuit in the electrical system may have set off the gas.

## Jordanians shot in Barcelona

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

Police yesterday were investigating the shooting of two Jordanians, who were believed to be students in Barcelona, and said that political motives could not be ruled out.

An unknown assailant, believed to be from an Arab country, shot and seriously wounded the two Jordanians as they were walking down a street in the centre of Barcelona on Tuesday evening. He escaped into the crowd of strollers.

Mr Abraham Ahmad Danun, aged 36, and Mr Ibrahim Alkassir, aged 27, were both taken to the intensive care unit of a Barcelona hospital, under treatment for head wounds.

There was no immediate indication of what organization or organizations might be responsible, if the theory of political motivation were to prove correct.



Mr Kaare Willoch: kept key ministries.

## Norwegian coalition takes office

Oslo (AP, Reuter) - Norway's first majority Government since 1971 was officially installed yesterday at a state council meeting in the royal palace.

Mr Kaare Willoch, the Prime Minister, will head a non-socialist three-party coalition which has 11 ministers from his own Conservative Party, four from the Christian Democratic Party and three from the Agrarian Centre Party.

It replaces Mr Willoch's all-Conservative minority Cabinet which came to power after general elections in 1981, and was supported by two other parties on a vote-by-vote basis.

The new Government has a 79-76 majority in the 155-seat Storting (Parliament).

Norwegian newspapers agreed that Mr Willoch came off best in the coalition talks and also in the composition of the Cabinet.

The new Government, Conservative in colour, includes: Prime Minister Kaare Willoch; Foreign Affairs, Svemmyr; Finance, Rolf Presthus; Justice, Mona Rindstad; Oil and Energy, Kaare Halvorsen; Church and Education, Kjetil Magne Bondvick; Agriculture, Finn Isaksson; Fisheries, Thor Liestad; Environment, Håvard Solberg; Social Affairs, Arne Helde; Defence, Anders Slagstad; Commerce and Shipping, Asbjørn Haugseth; Municipalities and Workers, Arne Rindstad; Development Aid, Håkon Brulundsen (Christian).

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14" PHILIPS 1421	£219.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1422	£229.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1423	£239.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1424	£249.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1425	£259.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1426	£269.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1427	£279.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1428	£289.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1429	£299.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1430	£309.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1431	£319.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1432	£329.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1433	£339.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1434	£349.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1435	£359.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1436	£369.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1437	£379.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1438	£389.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1439	£399.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1440	£409.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1441	£419.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1442	£429.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1443	£439.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1444	£449.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1445	£459.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1446	£469.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1447	£479.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1448	£489.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1449	£499.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1450	£509.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1451	£519.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1452	£529.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1453	£539.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1454	£549.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1455	£559.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1456	£569.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1457	£579.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1458	£589.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1459	£599.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1460	£609.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1461	£619.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1462	£629.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1463	£639.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1464	£649.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1465	£659.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1466	£669.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1467	£679.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1468	£689.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1469	£699.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1470	£709.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1471	£719.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1472	£729.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1473	£739.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1474	£749.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1475	£759.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1476	£769.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1477	£779.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1478	£789.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1479	£799.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1480	£809.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1481	£819.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1482	£829.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1483	£839.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95	TRICITY 2007	£199.95
14" PHILIPS 1484	£849.95	MEMOREX Beta 1200 (40 mins)	£ 5.95	SONY TRV 100	£ 29.95	SONERBA 1200S 1100 RPM H/C	£119.95	SONERBA C150 4 door, chest	£ 79.95		



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Norwegian  
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# Two world beaters — from Nissan.

Only a company as forward-looking as Nissan could launch *two* technically advanced new models on the same day.

The Micra — a compact 1 litre car with unbeatable economy. And the Prairie — a unique

multi-purpose vehicle with enormous carrying capacity.

Both are built to Nissan's world-beating standards of quality and reliability. Both give you exceptional value for money.



## New Micra.

### The most economical car you can buy—67.3mpg!

No other car will take you 67.3 miles on a *single* gallon of petrol.

And no other car produces so much power from a 1.0 litre engine.

So you get outstanding performance with exceptional economy.

The new Nissan Micra also offers you the tightest turning circle of any car in its class, to make it the ideal car about town—easy to park, light to handle, and with superb all-round visibility.

Its high level of trim includes standard equipment others treat as extras. Digital quartz clock, LW/MW radio, halogen headlamps, heated rear window with wash-wipe, and much more are all included in the price.

The Micra is fractionally longer than other cars in its class, so you'll be impressed by its interior space—and by its space for luggage.

And its quiet, comfy interior makes it a clever choice for really long journeys too.

The Micra is a world beating new car from Nissan, with front wheel drive, a new lightweight overhead camshaft engine, economy-ratio gearbox and wind cheating aerodynamic body.

There are three models to choose from—4-speed DX, 5-speed GL and GL automatic.

If you do nothing else today, test drive the new Micra! It's the most economical car you can buy.



from  
£3749

## New Prairie.

### The world's most versatile car!

There's no car in the world quite like the Prairie.

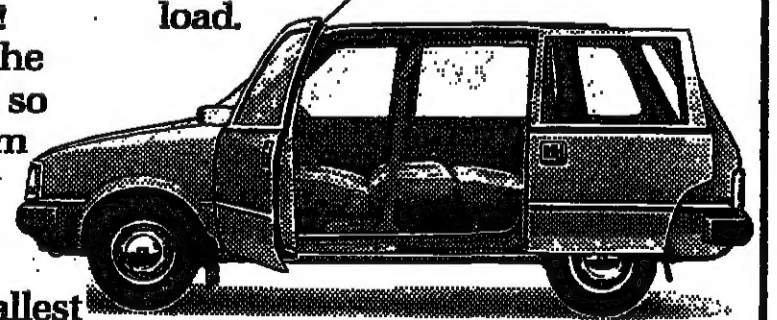
It's perfect for family use, perfect for leisure and ideal for business.

The Prairie has a unique pillarless design and sliding rear doors to give unobstructed access to the interior—perfect for loading with people or goods. And inside there's all the room in the world. Enough, in fact, for an upright piano!

And loading through the rear door has never been so easy. The tailgate lifts from below bumper level to reveal a floor a mere 17 inches above ground level—lower than the smallest estate car on the market.

The Prairie's spacious interior is luxuriously equipped, Datsun style. Both front and rear seats recline (and can be folded down) to make a comfortable double bed—perfect for holiday touring.

Under the bonnet a powerful 1.5 litre engine is linked to a five speed gearbox—gearing that gives punchy acceleration, whatever the load.



Fully independent suspension complements responsive rack and pinion steering. So the Prairie corners like a car even when it's loaded like an estate.

The new Prairie; there's no car quite like it. The only way you can appreciate its versatility is by visiting your Datsun dealer.

He'll show you a car that's absolutely unique!



£5799

The world's most innovative car company

# NISSAN DATSUN

Government Fuel Consumption Tests—mpg (litres/100kms.). Micra GL Constant 56 mph (90km/h) 67.3 (4.2). Town Driving Cycle 47.9 (5.9) Constant 75 mph (120km/h) 46.3 (6.1). Datsun UK Limited, Datsun House, New Road, Worthing, Sussex. Tel: Worthing (0903) 68581. Datsun price includes car tax, VAT, seat belts, two door mirrors, rear fog lamp etc. (Inland delivery, number plates and road fund licence extra).



US-Nicaragua tension grows

Consular officials accused of spying

From Mohsin Ali Washington

Nicaragua's six consulates in the United States closed down yesterday and their 21 officials began leaving for home after the Reagan Administration's swift retaliation for the expulsion on Monday of three American diplomats from Nicaragua.

The heads of the consulates in New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans and Houston were ordered by the State Department on Tuesday to close their offices and leave the country within 24 hours. The remainder of their staff and dependents have been told to leave by tomorrow.

The State Department said that an important consideration behind its action was "the Nicaraguan Government's use of its consulates for intelligence operations". Officials declined to give any details, and categorically rejected Nicaraguan charges that the expelled Americans had been involved in subversive activities.

Tension between the Administration and the Sandinista Government has reached an unprecedented pitch, but diplomatic relations have not been broken off.

President Reagan has repeatedly accused Managua, which is supported by Cuba and the Soviet Union, of giving aid to left-wing guerrillas in El Salvador. The Administration is giving economic and military aid to the Salvadoran Government.

On Tuesday the House foreign affairs committee approved a Bill to deny the operations in Nicaragua. Instead, the Bill would authorize the Administration to spend \$80m over two years to help friendly Central American nations to halt arms supplies to the Salvadoran guerrillas.

The committee's recommendation, adopted by 20 votes to 14, is, however, unlikely to be passed by the full Congress. It will now go to the Democratic-dominated House of Representatives, where Republicans and some Democrats will seek a compromise. Even if it passed the House, the Bill would stand little chance in the Republican-controlled Senate.

A State Department spokesman said: "We have stated before our basic opposition to any legislation which would constrain the executive's policy tools to deal with the extremely complex situation in Central America."

Many Democrats in Congress have alleged that the Administration is assisting Nicaraguan rebels to overthrow the Government, in violation of a congressional ban on the use of intelligence funds for such purposes.

Washington has repeatedly denied this, maintaining that its objective is merely to help stop arms shipments to the Salvadoran guerrillas.



Arrival: Miss Linda Pfeiffer, Miss Emilia Rodriguez and Mr. David Noble Greig, the three US diplomats expelled from Nicaragua, at Miami airport.

MANAGUA: Señor Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan junta, said that the expulsion of the Nicaraguan diplomats showed "irresponsibility" and strengthened the policy of confrontation and the war in Central America.

Their expulsion also "strengthens" the support that (the United States) is giving to the counter-revolutionary groups backed by the Army and Government of Honduras.

Señor Ortega's comments were made after the signing of an agreement on economic and scientific cooperation between Cuba and Nicaragua.

El Salvador trial: The Reagan Administration has decided to send a special representative to El Salvador to try to make sure that the courts conduct a thorough trial of Salvadoran soldiers accused of murdering four American missionaries in 1980, NYT reports.

Mr Harold R. Tyler, of New York, a former federal judge, has agreed to accept the role, Administration officials said, and to report back to the Administration and Congress.

The case has been a focus of continuing dispute in the United States because little progress has been made in the Salvadoran courts since the National Guardsmen were charged with the murders in November, 1982.



Departure: Señor Manuel Cordero, Nicaraguan Charge in Washington, announcing the US retaliation.

Pilot tells of ordeal  
Broken radio forced Harrier into emergency landing

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

The pilot of the Royal Navy Sea Harrier which landed on a Spanish cargo vessel in the Atlantic said he was forced to do so because of "navigation problems".

Sub-Lieutenant Ian Watson, speaking by radio-telephone from the Alraigo, which is expected in Santa Cruz de Tenerife, in the Canaries, this morning said: "There were no mechanical problems with the Harrier, but I realized I had navigational problems when I discovered the main radio was no longer working."

With fuel for only 30 minutes flying and having lost contact with the aircraft carrier, the 25-year-old pilot then used his radar and managed to locate the Spanish 3,800 tonnes dead-weight cargo vessel as it was some 120 nautical miles from the Portuguese coast sailing south-westwards.

Sub-Lieutenant Watson circled the Alraigo and then came down hovering over the cargo of 4ft by 2ft containers all stored in a 90ft area between the ship's bridge and its derrick.

"All the crew looked very concerned and they had the lifeboats out and the fire hoses at the ready", Sub-Lieutenant Watson went on, explaining that at the Alraigo lurched in high seas his Harrier nearly slipped off the containers ending with its fuselage tipped nose upwards at an angle of 10 degrees.

After getting over the shock the crew had been "very good indeed", Sub-Lieutenant Watson from the Yeovilton base. The Alraigo is expected to dock in Santa Cruz between 10 and 11 am local time today and a spokesman for the Garcia Miramar Line, owner of the ship, said yesterday that it was expected the vessel's own derrick would lift the Harrier off.

Señor Inaki Echeverria, head of the line, said a salvage claim on the Harrier had already put into this lawyer's hands.

The Spanish Foreign Ministry previously said the whole incident would be treated as a humanitarian matter - like the forced landing of any other aircraft.

The Spanish press has generally treated the incident in a light hearted way but has emphasised the remarks of the Alraigo's skipper, Captain Aitor Suso, a 26-year-old Basque, who spoke of his crew's fears when one of the Harrier's bombs slipped from its emplacement after the aircraft had been lashed down on board.

Diario 16, the Madrid liberal daily, had a front page illustrated column under the headline: "Land Wherever You Can". It showed a cartoon of an RAF pilot looking on nonchalantly from his cockpit as scared Spanish seamen watched a bomb pip along the Alraigo's deck. The newspaper was the only Spanish publication to mention a bomb.

Other papers said the Harrier had been taking part with the Mustangs in Nato manoeuvres. Reporting from Tenerife ABC, the Madrid right-wing daily, speculated that the aircraft might not be handed over today by the Spanish authorities in the Canaries but at the nearest British port - Gibraltar.

The Spanish Defence Ministry decided, on being informed by the shipping line, that the Alraigo should keep on its regular course from Bilbao to the Canaries. The captain of the ship told Spanish media he had received a suggestion from the aircraft carrier Mustang that he should make an emergency stop in Oporto, Portugal. The Spanish Navy also has the vessel's take-off and short landing aircraft on its carrier, the Dédalo.

world's biggest container in- and suspect, as a result of wear and tear on the high seas.

"I have seen containers that have been perforated through the middle, normal use. People can walk through them without any harm," he said.

The only comparison he made was with a container which had been hit by a bullet from a small arms fire. "It was a bullet from a small arms fire, not a bullet from a large gun," he said.

As it is, however, only a bullet from a small arms fire, it is a marvellous piece of workmanship on the part of the ship's crew.

Defence Ministry faces £400,000 bill

By John Lawless

The Ministry of Defence is likely to face a bill for about £400,000 as a result of the Harrier's forced landing.

Tenets were being between London and Santa Cruz de Tenerife when the Harrier landed.

The Harrier's landing was a success, but it was a very close call. The aircraft was damaged, but the crew was not.

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French police union fights back for its sacked chief

By Diana Geddes, Paris

The second largest police union federation, whose secretary-general has been dismissed from the force for his role in the police demonstrations in Paris last May, announced yesterday that it planned to hold a demonstration in protest against the attack on individual union rights.

M Remy Halbwax, secretary-general of the Union des Syndicats Categoriels, which represents about a fifth of the uniformed police, said that the dismissal was clearly the object of a political attack.

political attack, which was aimed at the union's role in the police demonstrations in Paris last May.

The union's role in the police demonstrations in Paris last May was a major factor in the decision to dismiss the secretary-general.

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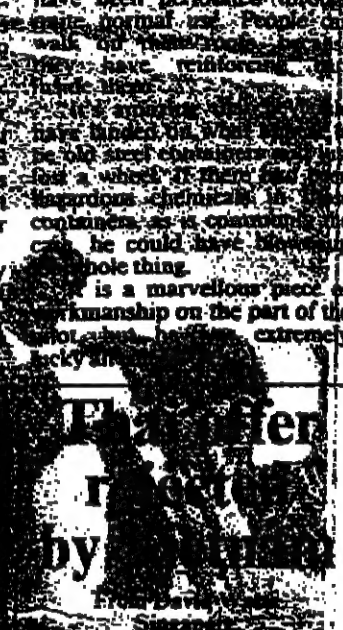
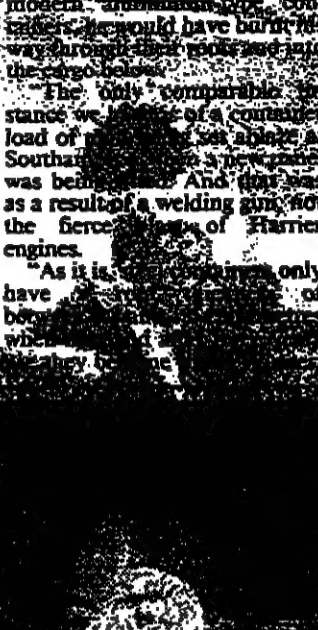
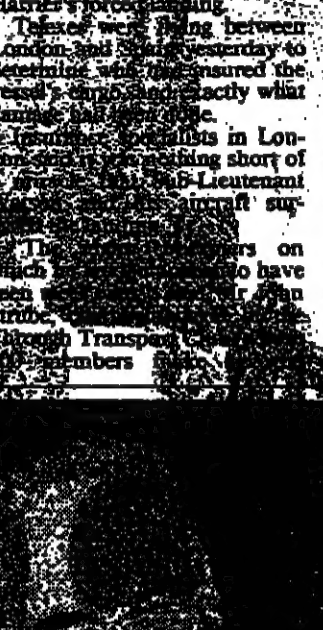
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**Warsaw give and take as papal visit nears**

Warsaw, (AP) Polish authorities have taken new steps against aides to Mr. Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader, but issued orders allowing Catholic intellectual clubs to reopen in a new series of moves before the Pope's visit which begins next Thursday.

Mr. Walesa, reached by telephone at his home in Gdansk, said he had no word on reports from the Vatican that he would meet the Pope in Czestochowa, the church shrine city, on the fourth day of his visit.

He said the police had confiscated the drivers' licences of Mr. Mieczyslaw Wasmowski, his regular driver, and Mr. Adam Kinszowski, one of his spokesmen, in what could be an effort to hinder his movements both before and during the papal visit.

The Kik intellectual clubs were suspended when martial law began in December, 1981.

● **Plea for calm:** Talks between Cardinal Jozef Glemp, the

**Razor blade slasher brings fear to Rome**

A young woman was slashed across the face yesterday by a man with a razor who has attacked seven people in a week.

Signorina Simonetta Ricci, aged 22, had just left home in the morning to do some shopping in the Tuscolano suburb of Rome when the man attacked her from behind, slashing her right cheek.

She was taken to hospital and needed eight stitches, Her

**Towed ship runs amuck**

Cherbourg, (Reuters) - Three ships were damaged, two giant cranes knocked over and millions of pounds' worth of damage caused in an accident in the northern French port of Cherbourg.

The Japanese ship European Venture, bringing cars to France, entered the port under tow late on Tuesday and was seen to turn and hit the back of a moored Swedish cargo vessel, which broke away and hit an Irish car ferry.

The European Venture meanwhile ran into a quay and knocked over two 120-ton cranes used to unload reprocessed radioactive fuel. An inquiry has been ordered. Port officials said the ships were not seriously damaged, but the valuable cargo was lost, which would affect port operations. No one was reported injured.



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## Damages for negligent house valuation

London and South of England Building Society v Stone

Before Lord Justice Stephenson, Lord Justice O'Connor and Sir Denys Buckley.

Judgment delivered May 27]

Where a surveyor, in breach of his duty to value a property mortgaged to a building society, carelessly and unsuitably put upon the property a false value and the building society advanced money on the false valuation, the true measure of damages for the breach was the difference between the sum the building society advanced on the false valuation and the sum the building society would have advanced on the true valuation which a careful and skilful surveyor would have put upon the property.

But that difference might not always be the true measure of the actual loss which might be increased by expenses and reduced by receipts. It was not incumbent upon the building society to pay the personal costs of the surveyor in mitigation of the surveyor's damages.

The Court of Appeal, giving a reserved judgment, allowed by majority (Sir Denys Buckley dissenting) an appeal by the London and South of England Building Society (formerly known as the South of England Building Society) from a decision of Mr Justice Russell on November 13, 1981, who held that judgment against the defendant surveyor, Mr Stone, should be entered for the building society for £12,568 being £9,133 damages plus agreed interest.

Leave to appeal to the House of Lords was granted.

In March 1976 Mr Robinson and his fiancée, Mrs Hurd, were negotiating for the purchase of a semi-detached house, Land End in Corsham, Wiltshire. They approached the building society for a mortgage to finance the purchase.

The society instructed Mr Stone who was a qualified surveyor and had valued the property. The society had a printed form which went to Mr Stone for him to complete but in part it had already been filled in by the society and stated that the amount of the advance required was £12,800 repayable over 25 years; and that the agreed purchase price was £14,850.

Mr Stone inspected the property and made his report to the society. He gave the house a clean bill of health. He certified that he had valued the property, and prepared his report in accordance with the provisions of section 25 of the Building Societies Act 1962. He recommended the property as a suitable security for the advance and term requested.

But due to the society's in-house rules they only advanced £11,800. By a legal charge dated September 23, 1976, the borrowers charged the house to the society.

The borrowers covenanted, *inter alia*, to pay monthly instalments of specified sums, until the principle sum and any further advances and all other moneys payable by the borrowers were paid to keep any buildings on the property in good and tenable repair to the satisfaction of the society, and to repay with usual interest all money

paid by the society in completing, repairing, amending, altering, improving or insuring the property or in making any payments for outgoing in relation thereto or for the protection or improvement.

The borrowers moved into their new home but soon cracks appeared and the doors ceased to fit, the sure tell-tales that the property was subject to subsidence. The borrowers became alarmed, and called in consulting engineers who reported in September 1977 that the house was built on the site of an old quarry in the hillside which had been indifferently filled, that not only was the whole hillside gradually moving downward, but the fill in the quarry was sliding downhill lubricated by water and taking the foundations of the house with it. They recommended underpinning.

The borrowers turned to the society for help. The repairs cost £29,000. In June 1979 the society decided not to ask the borrowers to make up any deficiency as a gesture of goodwill on the part of the society for what had been a most difficult and frightening experience for the borrowers but to pursue their remedy against Mr Stone.

Mr Patrick Twigg for the building society, Mr John Slater for Mr Stone.

LORD JUSTICE STEPHENSON said that the only question raised by the appeal and cross appeal was whether the judge should have discounted the repayment of the £11,800 which the society advanced on the worthless property by £3,000 or any sum for the borrowers' obligation to repay it with interest under their personal covenant.

What was contended for Mr Stone was that the building society ought to have done something and that had to mean that they should have mitigated the damage flowing from the worthlessness of the security. They should have had recourse to another item of security than the mortgaged property, but surely that was a security in a different sense not by itself securing the loan, namely the borrowers' contractual obligation under the covenant in the deed.

If that was only available to Mr Stone as mitigation, he must prove it was reasonable and when the court had to decide that question of fact, the society's conduct in not taking steps to reduce the loss would not be weighed in nice scales as the instance of the party who had occasioned the loss: *Banco de Portugal v Waterman & Sons Ltd* (1932) AC 432, 506.

The following principles applicable to the instant case were established by authority:

(1) A plaintiff need not take the risk of starting an uncertain litigation against a third party: see *Pilkington v Wood* (1953) Ch 770. That included litigation which might be reasonably certain to result, in judgment for the plaintiff but there was no certainty that the judgment would be satisfied.

(2) A plaintiff need not take steps to recover compensation for his loss from parties who, in addition to the defendant, were liable to him: see *Steamship Enterprises of Panama Inc. v Liverpool (Owners) v Ousef (Owners)* (The Liverpool (No 2)) (1963) P 64.

(3) A plaintiff need not act so as to injure innocent persons: see *James Finlay & Co Ltd v Kwik Hoo Tong Handel Maatschappij* (1929) 1 KB 400 and *the Banco de Portugal case*.

(4) A plaintiff need not prejudice its commercial reputation: see *Banco de Portugal*.

In the instant case the borrowers were unable to provide additional payments, the society fair morally responsible for the loss of the borrowers' home and that enforcement of the covenant to pay would injure their public relations. Accordingly, Mr Stone had not proved that the society's refusal to enforce the covenant was unreasonable.

LORD JUSTICE O'CONNOR said that applying the reasoning in *Banco de Portugal* (1929) 1 KB 400 to the facts of the present case the actual loss to the building society was £29,000.

The judge held that it was unreasonable to spread so much money on repairing the house. It was not suggested that the house could have been repaired for less than £11,800.

What then was suggested that the society should have done? The judge did not ask himself that question, and as a result did not answer it.

Something had to be done for the evidence was that the house was about to fall down. The borrowers could not afford to put the house into repair.

Should the society have called in the loan for breach of covenant and repossessed the property? That would have been a pointless exercise as the house was worthless and indeed a liability for it either had to be repaired or pulled down and the neighbouring premises shored up.

The truth was that however one looked at the case the society had lost the whole of their advance at the very least. That loss had been caused by the negligence of Mr Stone. There was no justification for the suggestion that the society were under any duty to Mr Stone to mitigate that loss by trying to extract money from the borrowers.

The appeal ought to be allowed and judgment entered for the building society.

Solicitors: Lawrence Messer & Co, Barlow Lyde & Gilbert.

Regina v Greenfield (Tony)

The word "cocaine" was used in Schedule 2 to the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 as a generic word which included both the direct extracts of the coca leaf and whatever resulted from a chemical transformation of such extracts.

LORD JUSTICE LAWTON, sitting in the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) on May 27 with Mr Justice Croom-Johnson and Mr Justice Stocker, so held, dismissing an appeal by Mr Tony Greenfield against his conviction for unlawfully possessing cocaine with intent to supply it to another.

HIS LORDSHIP said that it had been contended that Schedule 2 of the 1971 Act distinguished between

building society in the full sum of £11,800.

SIR DENYS BUCKLEY, dissenting, said that the obligations of the borrowers under their personal covenants remained intact, unaffected by Mr Stone's negligence. Indeed, they were duly performed down to the time when the loan was paid off.

What impact, if any, did the continued subsidence of the borrowers' obligations under their covenants have on the measure of the society's loss?

If the borrowers had been so amply endowed with wealth that there was no real likelihood of their being unable to fulfil their covenants fully and punctually or, if they failed to do so, no real likelihood of the society being unable to recover in full any claim for damages for breach of covenant, the society could not have successfully asserted that they had suffered any financial loss in consequence of Mr Stone's negligence, or, since there could be no absolute certainty about the future solvency of even a very wealthy covenantor, the court might take the view that the society should be allowed some moderate discount on the full amount on the borrowers' personal liabilities in order to compensate the society for any risk of their proving to be unable to recover whatever sums might become due from the borrowers in full.

That appeared to be an entirely logical and satisfactory way of approaching the problem of assessing damages in such a case. It did not involve the operation of any doctrine of mitigation of damage by the society, for it proceeded upon the basis that the covenantor was likely fully and punctually to discharge obligations without any act on the part of the society.

Although the judge was not very explicit about his method of arriving at his figure of £3,000 discount, he appeared to have taken the appropriate circumstances into account in doing so, and there was no cogent reason for saying that he was wrong in his estimate.

The powers under the Act were exercisable in respect of a "house", and the question was whether the house could be considered as such, within the meaning of the Act.

There was nothing in the Housing Act 1957 or the 1961 Act to suggest that Parliament intended the word "house" to bear a wider meaning than was implied by the ordinary meaning of the word, or that it included such buildings as hospitals, hotels, hostels or army barracks.

The 1961 Act apparently gave the word "accommodation" which was essentially domestic. However, in *Reed v Hastings Corporation* (1964) 62 LGR 588 the Court of Appeal had held that a hostel with 13 rooms providing accommodation for between eight and ninety schoolchildren was a house for the purposes of section 90 of the Housing Act 1957.

It appeared that the case had been decided upon grounds of policy, as the court was upholding a notice to prevent overcrowding of the premises, and it was therefore unlikely that the case could stand in the way of a similar notice in *R v Barnes London Borough Council, Ex parte Sharr* (The Times, December 17, 1982; [1983] 2 WLR 16, 30) yet it was an authority which had stood for 20 years.

Accordingly there were grounds upon which the council could correctly conclude in law that the house was a house for the purpose of the Act, and the application would be dismissed.

Solicitors: Norton, Rose, Bonnell and Kocher; Mr F. Nickson.

## Hostel can be held a house under Act

Regina v Camden London Borough Council, Ex parte Rowton (Camden Town) Ltd

Before Mr Justice McCullough. Judgment delivered May 27]

A hostel which provided accommodation for a thousand persons could justifiably be considered a "house" for the purposes of sections 12, 15 and 19 of the Housing Act 1961.

Mr Justice McCullough so held in the Queen's Bench Division in dismissing an application for judicial review by way of certiorari to quash notices served by the London Borough of Camden upon the owners of a hostel named Arlington House, requiring certain works to be carried out, and limiting the number of occupants at the second floor of the south wing of the house.

Mr George Lawrence for the owners, Mr David Turner-Samuels, QC and Mr Thomas Goudie for the council.

MR JUSTICE McCULLOUGH said that the council had ordered certain works to be carried out on the second floor of the south wing of Arlington House, pursuant to section 15(1) of the 1961 Act. Under section 19(1) it had ordered further that the number of occupants of that part of the building should not exceed 26.

The powers under the Act were exercisable in respect of a "house", and the question was whether the hostel could be considered as such, within the meaning of the Act.

There was nothing in the Housing Act 1957 or the 1961 Act to suggest that Parliament intended the word "house" to bear a wider meaning than was implied by the ordinary meaning of the word, or that it included such buildings as hospitals, hotels, hostels or army barracks.

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Accordingly there were grounds upon which the council could correctly conclude in law that the house was a house for the purpose of the Act, and the application would be dismissed.

Solicitors: Norton, Rose, Bonnell and Kocher; Mr F. Nickson.

## Tort claimants can claim when company becomes solvent

In re Islington Metal and Plating Works Ltd

Before Mr Justice Harman. Judgment delivered May 27]

His Lordship held that if a company in liquidation, which started as being insolvent, later became solvent, the company ceased to be subject to section 317 of the Companies Act 1948, and became subject to section 316 thereof, and that at that stage tort claimants, whose claims could not be admitted to proof while the company was insolvent, could be admitted to proof, even though that might result in some claims in an apparently solvent liquidation not being paid in full.

Mr Alan Steinfield for the liquidators, Mr Michael Kennedy for the contributories, Mr Christopher Russell for the tort claimants.

MR JUSTICE HARMAN said that he had already given judgment on March 23, on one question (*The Times* March 29) and he would not repeat the facts there set out. His Lordship had then decided that the tort claimants, as theretofore defined, were not entitled to be admitted to proof in the liquidation, by reason of the terms of section 317 of the Companies Act 1948.

At the resumed hearing the liquidators, being content with the judgment given in effect in their favour, elected not to appear, but Mr Steinfield again appeared for the liquidators, and Mr Russell for the tort claimants and on this occasion Mr Kennedy appeared for the contributories.

The contest, on this occasion, was whether once all the company's undoubted unsecured creditors and the costs of the liquidation had been paid or provided for, any surplus moneys should go to the tort claimants or to the contributories.

The importance to the liquidators in a company where there was at present in prospect a deficiency as to undoubted unsecured creditors and the costs of the liquidation had been paid or provided for, any surplus moneys should go to the tort claimants or to the contributories.

The importance to the liquidators in a company where there was at present in prospect a deficiency as to undoubted unsecured creditors and the costs of the liquidation had been paid or provided for, any surplus moneys should go to the tort claimants or to the contributories.

At present the company was clearly insolvent, and for that

reason his Lordship had held that section 317 applied, and brought in section 30 of the Bankruptcy Act 1914, so as to exclude the tort claimants.

So long as his Lordship's judgment stood and the company remained insolvent, the liquidators needed to have no regard to the tort claimants. It was also plain that on a company which was not insolvent, going into liquidation, section 316 of the 1948 Act applied and "all claims" were admissible to proof.

Persons who were tort claimants against a solvent company would be able to prove, and the liquidator, in such a case, would have to make a just estimate of the value of the claim.

The difficult question was what happened if a company, insolvent at the outset of the liquidation, became solvent during that process. Such a case did occur, as the affairs of the old Rolls-Royce company demonstrated; a company thought there to be hopelessly insolvent was able in the end to pay 48p per share to the contributories.

The judgment of Sir John Pennycuik, Vice-Chancellor, in *In re Rolls-Royce Ltd* (1974) 1 WLR 1584, 1591 showed that a company which moved from being insolvent to being solvent also moved from the provisions of section 317 to those of section 316, but as appeared from the quotation from *In re Midland Trawlers Co* (1884) 25 Ch D 587 it only so moved when a surplus had been proved.

The real difficulty arose when the liquidator found that there were claimants such as the tort claimants, where the claims exceeded the apparent surplus. Was the company again insolvent and did section 317 again apply? If so, there being no undisputed creditors left, an eternal state of oscillation between the sections would be created. That might be the secret of perpetual motion, but his Lordship could not believe that it was the law.

In his Lordship's judgment, once a company had passed from section 317 to section 316, it had to be admitted, even if that resulted in some claims in an apparently solvent liquidation not being paid in full. Any other result would be administratively impossible, and there was no legislative authority to the contrary compelling such a result.

Mr Kennedy, for the contributories, argued that once claimants such as the tort claimants were prevented from proving by section

317, they were so prevented for all time.

The propositions that liquidation and distribution were to be treated as simultaneous, that the committee of inspection had to be found from creditors entitled to prove at the date of liquidation, and that all debts were to be valued as at that date, showed that it was impossible to allow claimants who were not admitted at that date to come in thereafter.

His Lordship referred to *In re Delhi Electric Supply and Traction Co Ltd* (1954) Ch 131, reported in the House of Lords as *Government of India v Taylor* (1955) Ch 491, and concluded that although the contributories were the successful party in that case it did not follow that the contributories in the present case should be successful, and that nothing in that case bore directly on the present one.

In his Lordship's judgment the key to the whole problem lay in the concept that a company in liquidation started subject to section 317 but could then move to section 316. The tests for admission were different in the two sections.

The fact that this shift of position might occur demonstrated that the theory of simultaneous dealing had to be modified to this limited extent.

His Lordship confessed to being glad to reach this result. As Mr Justice Vinelott had rightly pointed out in *In re Berkeley Securities Ltd* (1980) 1 WLR 1589 the gross injustice which would be caused by ruling out of account in a liquidation persons such as the tort claimants here was a consideration which would impel any judge to try to find a way of allowing them to prove.

As his Lordship had held earlier he was forced to the conclusion that the decision of Mr Justice Vinelott was wrong. His Lordship was happy that his well justified desire to see justice fairly applied could to some extent be satisfied without the difficulties which the liquidators in the present case had put before his Lordship as arising from the full scope of that decision.

His Lordship therefore held that if the claims of the undoubted contributories were satisfied and the costs provided for, the tort claimants would be admitted to make their claims for distribution of any surplus.

Solicitors: Booth & Blackwell; Barnett & Barnett; W.R. Bennett & Co.

## Assessment of liability for misrepresentation

Chesman v Interhouse Ltd

Damages for misrepresentation under section 2(1) of the Misrepresentation Act 1967 were to be assessed on the same principles as damages in tort in a case where it was represented that a holiday villa for rental was in a quiet location when it was in fact part of a commercial complex.

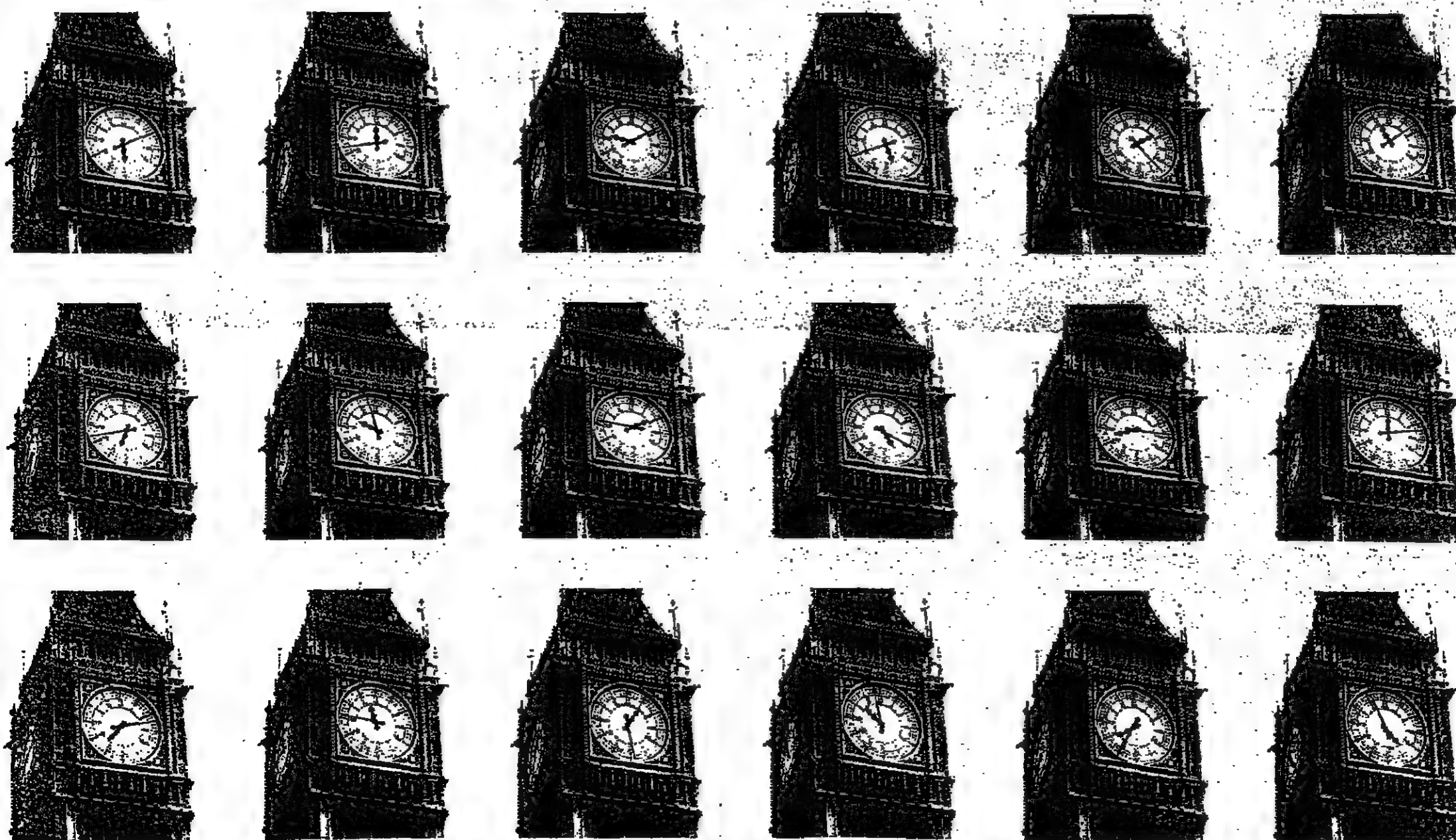
Lord Justice Eveleigh (sitting with Lord Justice

O'Connor in the Court of Appeal) held on June 7.

HIS LORDSHIP said that he took the use of the word "so" in "that person shall be so liable notwithstanding that the misrepresentation was not made fraudulently" in section 2(1) to mean liable as he would have been had the misrepresentation been made fraudulently.

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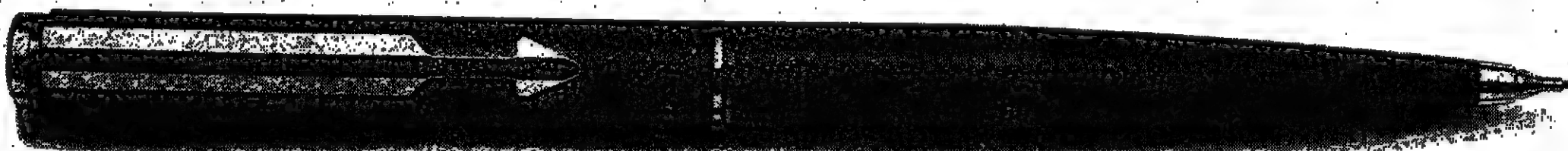
# How to make your mark in politics.


☐

The Parker International Rolled Gold Pen. £24.  
Creates dazzling impression if waved from back-benches during PM's Question Time.


☐

The Parker 25 Fibre Tip. £5.95.  
Unlike new Members, will not dry up in mid-flow. Comes with red or blue, but unfortunately not orange, refill.


☐

The Parker Arrow Matt Black Pencil. £12.50.  
The spokesman's dream: records strong, clear statements which can later discreetly be erased.


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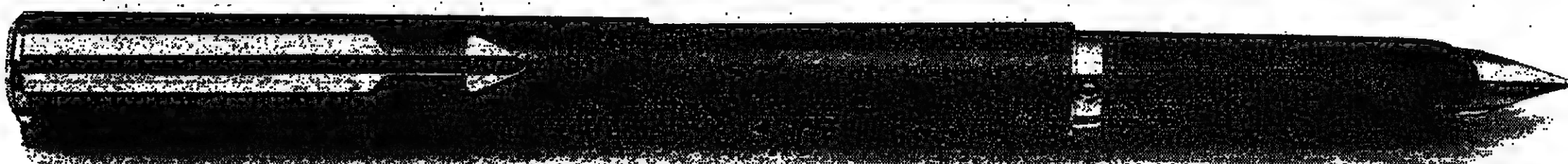
The Parker T-Ball Special. £2.25.  
Useful for jotting ideas, insults, categorical denials etc, on cuff during debates. Will write on virtually anything.


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The Parker 25 Roller Ball. £5.95.  
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Economy model of above. Recommended for use by Chancellor when next drafting Budget.


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The Parker Arrow Matt Black Fountain-Pen. £20.  
Works equally well on White or Green Papers. Guaranteed never to blot on a promising career.

May we suggest you vote Parker on your way to the Polling Station today?  
Making your mark with anything less is tantamount to spoiling the ballot-paper.

 PARKER ☒



## SPECTRUM

## Up the poll without a vote

MODERN TIMES  
A sideways look at the British way of life

leaving their form uncollected at the polling station; the last of the big abstainers.

But there is another group of men and women, all living in Britain and directly affected by the new regime, which has no votes at all. Some are disenfranchised - they had the vote once, but it has been taken away from them - others, like women until comparatively lately, were never given it in the first place. Who are the great unprivileged class? Why do they not rise up against the powers that be and demand their small but significant contribution to the nation's democracy? What about their rights?

A good question. And, in the circumlocution of the politicians whose day of days this is, may I answer it by asking you another? Whoever heard of the Queen voting? No one. She doesn't because she's not a commoner and doesn't want to have anything to do with the Right Honourable Ruff-Ruff who make such a noise on the *Today* programme that Her Majesty has to turn over to Terry Wogan each morning. And the rest of the royal family feel the same way. Even if they are on the electoral register, they are not going to vote, because royals don't and that's that. Nor do any of the House of Lords, who think that they are as near royal as you can get without actually having *The Sun* inviting itself on holiday with them.

When Nye Bevan called them "worse than ermine" (Surely it was "worse than vermouth"? Ed.) it was under the assumption that most of them were going to vote Tory. Little did he know that none of them was going to vote anything because they had a bigger, plusher, redder chamber than the mere elected Members and there is nothing that would induce them to swap their privileges for a paltry stake, once in a while, in the appointment of an envious jabbermouth who is only hoping to end up sitting in the Lords if he plays his cards right anyway.

It was Lord Hailsham, in his first incarnation, who said the British electorate would be "stark, staring bonkers" if they were to vote Labour, little knowing the catch in the constitution which says that if you are stark, staring bonkers, or even merely off your trolley, then you are not entitled to vote in any case. Or maybe that was his point: if you are thinking of voting Labour you are bonkers and therefore not entitled to vote, hence the downfall of a once-proud party. It would have been one of the most heinous tricks played upon socialism by the Upper House since Lord Stansgate hung up his coronet and insinuated himself among the commoners as Tony Benn.

Be that as it may, the thing about being crackers, if you want to carry on voting, is not to be caught at it by two doctors. One of the best places for avoiding detection is among the ranks of the House of Commons after lunch. Whereas in most professions, the more daft, ga-ga, looney-sounding, wild-haired and eyeball-swivelling you are the less chance there is of promotion, in the Commons quite the reverse is true.

Then there are minors, which is a posh name for children. They should not be confused with the other sort, who caused Ted Heath to ask who was governing Britain, only to be told smartly that he wasn't. Minors used to start at 21. Now they start at 18. Many MPs began life as minors, which is why the franchise has not been extended downwards lately - a classic example of the privileged pulling the ladder up after them.

One of the lasting puzzles of the British electoral system - and one, I should say, completely ignored by Walter Bagehot in his *English Constitution* - is why politicians spend so much time kissing minors or patting them on the head during elections. Maybe it is because they have no vote that politicians feel they can abuse them so freely.

If you are a guest of Her Majesty at, say, Windsor or Wormwood Scrubs, then you are ineligible to vote. The criminal fraternity counts this as one of its most jealously guarded perks. When inside, engaged upon an Open University course on high-precision printing or fine art or studying for a City and Guilds certificate in roof repairs, there is nothing so intrusive as a four-week hiatus while the straight and narrow get themselves sorted out.

Aliens are likewise vote-free. They can drink tea, go on strike, hate foreigners, eat fish and chips, sing Rule Britannia, dodge VAT and love the Queen Mum, but that does not make them one of us. They might call themselves British, but we think they are foreigners and, as such, they have no right to go poking their noses into our sacred birthright. We can mess it up without any help from them, thank you very much as will no doubt be proved by tomorrow morning.

Nicholas Wapshott



## NEARLY MAN

Andrew Horden (above)  
A-level student Westminster  
School, who narrowly misses voting

"I do regret not being able to vote - it was so tantalizingly close. It will probably be the last chance I have to vote for my father... next time I expect I shall be living outside his constituency... I would have voted Conservative anyway unless the candidate was one I did not like. There are a few - Nigel Lawson, for example, annoys me intensely. As I have considered socialism as an alternative, particularly at the start of this government, but no longer. As I see it at the moment there is only one major issue: defence. The world I am growing up in without nuclear weapons or with not enough

is frightening. I believe strongly in Trident but I don't see why the Navy should have to foot the bill completely... This election is critical for only because, as I see it, the Labour Party has rejected what it traditionally stood for. In a historical context, someone looking back in years to come will not, I think, understand anything about the Labour Party today. Unemployment is worrying, of course, but I am less concerned with that, though I realise that I'm privileged, that I've never known hardship. I imagine most of my colleagues at school would be Conservative if they bothered to think about it, and of course some do. The headmaster's a Social Democrat, I believe, and there might be one or two who would think it a good idea to vote that way too!"



## ALIEN

Bonnie Angelo (left)  
Bureau Chief, Time Magazine,  
American citizen

"I have been here for five and a half years, so this is my second election. I'm a political junky. To rewrite Cole Porter, I get a kick from campaigns! I'm interested for two reasons, firstly, because it is a reality, secondly, because as a journalist I'm in a perfect situation - totally immersed and totally non-partisan. I'm free to have my favourite personalities in all parties, and I do. Examples? Well, there's Shirley Williams and Peter Shore and John Biffen... I find the fact that your peers don't vote very odd. They seem a pretty good lot to me - you could endow them with the

## LIFE SENTENCE

Lord Ardwick (right)  
Ex-editor, created a life peer in 1970

"I believe the House of Lords should be reformed so that you have two kinds of peers elected and nominated... At 70 I would have to be a nominated peer or nothing. It is difficult for elderly people to act effectively in politics. About the time President Kennedy came to power we got this kind of youth image - Harold Wilson, Lord Home, Ted Heath - all by previous standards, young to become Prime Minister. We've advanced a bit since then. The Prime Minister is past his middle fifties, Michael Foot is 70, Roy Jenkins 60... and the boys David, well they will be older when they have learned to be

beardless... What do I think of the parties today? Well the Alliance is based on jelly - showing some signs of setting but jelly nonetheless. Labour is still based on rock but has presented a much criticized manifesto. I don't take manifestos seriously - a rabble of aspirations - nor I think do people vote for them. They vote for the overall image of a party. By now the electorate has a pretty good idea how Labour and Conservative behave. The Alliance is more of a problem since they have no experience in government. At this election people will be voting on the economic future of this country - that's the central issue. How would I vote? Labour of course. There's an old tune running through my head, the last line is "If it's good enough for the working man, it's good enough for me."



vote. Do I mind not being able to vote? Not at all. We are visitors in another country and if we stay here long enough we can acquire the right, but that would mean giving up one's American citizenship. How do I think our system compares? Well let me tell you, I came to Britain in awe of your parliamentary system. No, perhaps impressed would be more accurate. I used to argue with my friends in America that we might be better off with a parliamentary system instead of our madness for personalities. Having seen the House of Commons at work, particularly the rowdier members, it has lost some of its lustre. Now I feel that our much-maligned House of Representatives is in fact a more serious body... I've had so many little bets on this election - great sport!"



## SUB ROYAL

Patrick, Earl of Lichfield (right)  
Hereditary peer and working  
photographer

"I inherited when I was 18 so I've never voted. I do not think there should be revisions in the House of Lords. Since one is given the option of whether or not to sit there (it's called leave of absence), I think that if you agreed not to participate in matters of government you could be allowed to vote. I wouldn't say that I was true blue - but I would certainly vote for Mrs Thatcher in this election - thought I may not have in the last. It takes time to implement one's policies, whether they are the result of a strong U-turn, right turn or straight ahead and five years is not enough. She needs at least ten years. It would be very bad luck for the country if we got it wrong now; one only has to look at what's happened in France to see what a left turn can do. The trouble with the British is that as a country, we are apathetic. I belong to several trade unions, for example, but I don't go to meetings as often as I should... When I was young I think I thought 'what difference



does one vote make anyway". Now I know otherwise. It is extraordinary, looked at from an advertising point of view, that the others didn't change the two front men: if Labour had Healey at the front it would be a different matter now... I never gamble normally, but last year and in 1979 I had a bet that Mrs Thatcher wouldn't get in. I need the money if she doesn't..."

## EX-CON

Geoff Coggan (left)  
Ex-prisoner Wormwood Scrubs,  
Wandsworth, Parkhurst, national  
organizer, the National Prisoners'  
Movement

"I was in Wormwood Scrubs at the time of the 1974 election - 1974 probably represented the high spot of prisoner's interest as prisoners in parliamentary elections. Since then there has been the disillusionment of three Home Secretaries in quick succession - Roy Jenkins, Merlyn Rees and Whitelaw - now representing the three parties soliciting our votes. None of the vital issues confronting the electorate is irrelevant to prisoners. They are as likely as anybody else to be blown up by

nuclear weapons and are more likely than most to be affected, on their release, by unemployment - right at the end of the queue. On election night people will be listening on transistor radios. You're not allowed to lay bets in prison of course, but it's done all the time. As to how they would vote, there are no grounds for anticipating a prisoners' "block" vote; not even on issues like capital punishment or length of sentences. The vast majority of prisoners are inside for property offences. A lot are budding capitalists who simply tried to take a short cut. Seriously, there is a deep sense of grievance among many prisoners at election time. The thought of who is going to be the next Home Secretary is strong - the thought of Tebbit, for example, awful."



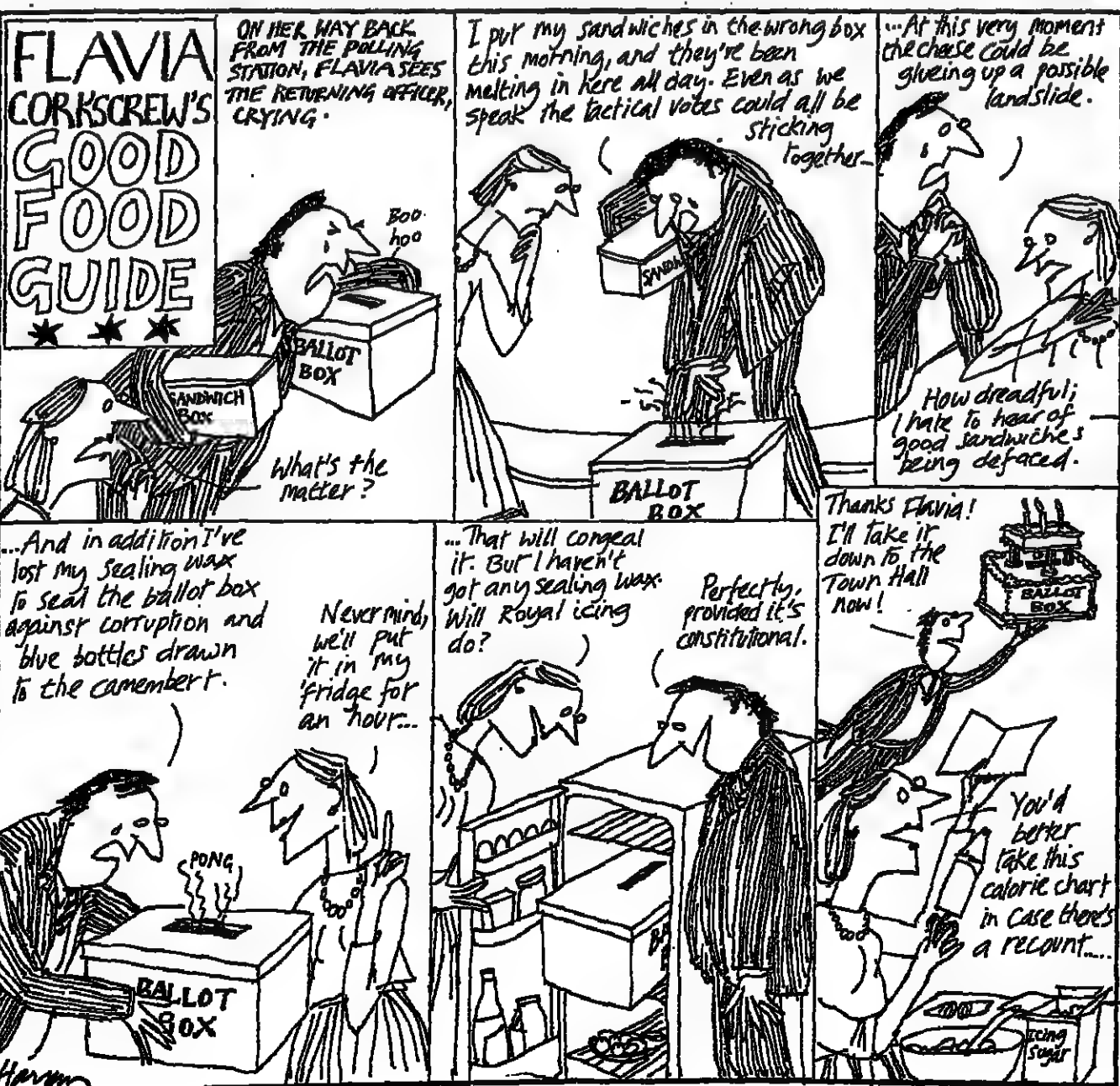
## RIGHTS FIGHT

Tony Stone (above)  
Director of social education,  
Calderstone Hospital and Director  
of nursing, Burnley, Pendle,  
Rossendale District Mental  
Handicap Service

"The position on Thursday is that the 110 patients who were put on the register in 1978 will participate in this election... Both major political parties are committed to improving the lives of mentally handicapped people; I don't know how the Alliance stands. At present some patients are very conscious of the issues involved in the election and want to participate; there are others not so conscious and some whose illness incapacitates them to such an extent that they are not aware of the issues at all. When we first considered getting patients on the

electoral register at Calderstones, the staff identified approximately 10 per cent of patients as being fully capable. They were put on the electoral register in 1978 and voted in the 1979 by-election. As a result of this, more people from Calderstones came forward and said: 'Why can my friend vote and not me?' We realized then that the only proper way was to put the entire population on the register, so the whole thing becomes self-selective... It took three or four years, but finally in September 1981, Blackburn Crown Court awarded the three patients whose case we argued initially the right to vote. This effectively brought about the changes which eventually led to the Mental Health Amendment Act, which comes into force this September."

Judy Froshang



Here's a really exciting game for you to play on election night. All the phrases listed below will be used from time to time on TV, by special arrangement between Moreover Ltd. and the television companies. Every time you spot one, tick it off. When you have heard them all, you can go to bed. Better still, read them now and go straight to bed.

"We're still waiting for the result to come in, but on the basis the computer is predicting a dead heat."  
"Kinnock has always been a safe Labour seat, of course, but boundary changes have turned it into a safe marginal. David?"  
"Let's look at that diagram again."  
"And if that swing were repeated right across the country, it would mean that the Alliance would have more votes than any other party and still not have a single seat. Sir Robin?"  
"We're still waiting for the first result to come in, so here's Gerald Kaufman to sing a song, a little song entitled: 'I have not come here tonight to discuss Michael Foot's leadership.'"  
"Thank you, Robin. Mandelstam North, remember, has always traditionally voted for the party which turns out to form the government, but recent boundary changes have turned it into a new motorway, so let's look at that diagram again. Ivor Crewe?"  
"Hello, I'm Ivor Crewe."  
"Sorry to interrupt there, but we've just heard that we've got a result in Brent Cross Shopping Centre, so over to Vincent Hanna."  
"Brent Cross Shopping Centre used to be called Al(M) Access Road, don't forget, but

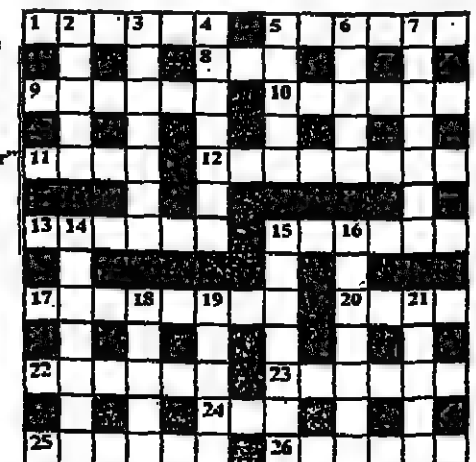
## Ballotspeak

VIOROVER Miles Kingston

recent roadworks have turned it into a highly marginal diagram. And I think we're going to get a result now."  
"I am the returning officer for this constituency and I claim my £10."  
"And if that swing were repeated all over the country, we could expect rain from the West, clearing later in the day. Sir Robin?"  
"Here in the studio..."  
"Sorry to interrupt you there, Sir Robin, but we've just heard that we've lost Vincent Hanna. Back to you, Robin."  
"You'll notice that the orange column, representing Liberal, has shot past Labour, fallen over and broken into a thousand bits. What this basically means is that if you put in another 10p, you get a free go."  
"Let's take another look at Ivor Crewe."  
"Hello, I'm Ivor Crewe..."  
"Sorry to interrupt you there, but I've just heard there's been another goal at White Hart Lane. Brian?"  
"Results are now coming in so fast that we can hardly keep up, but the latest news is that the recount at Southampton North is actually taking place at Northampton South, which is much as we expected. David?"  
"Don't forget that after redistribution Robin Day is now Sir Robin Day, turning a safe commentator into a marginal, which may explain last week's shattering result against Margaret Thatcher. Neil Kinnock?"  
"I therefore declare the aforementioned Arthur James Hemel Hempstead..."

## CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 78)

ACROSS:  
1 Drooping carriage (6)  
5 Rider's seat (6)  
8 Social insect (3)  
9 Ascended (6)  
10 Make wealthy (6)  
11 ... and Terminus court (4)  
12 Male voice (8)  
13 Important person (6)  
15 Eraser (6)  
17 Australian mammal (8)  
20 Glass material (4)  
22 Unwind (6)  
23 Collapsed (6)  
24 Not me (3)  
25 Slumbering (6)  
26 Haughty (6)



DOWN:  
2 Truck (5)  
3 Unthread (7)  
4 Woman's bag (7)  
5 Direct (5)

6 Challenged (5)  
7 Authorization (7)  
14 Isles (7)  
15 Tranquil (7)  
16 Fuzzier (7)  
18 Not these (5)  
19 Invertebrate (5)  
21 Perfect (5)

SOLUTION TO No 77  
ACROSS: 1 Nugget 4 Esteem 7 Lien 8 Regulate 9 Atrocity 12 Bye 15 Adonis 16 Sculpt 17 Arm 19 Guidance 24 Question 25 Gale 26 Beauty 27 Errant  
DOWN: 1 Null 2 Guest Room 3 Toric 4 Eight 5 Toll 6 Entry 10 Owing 11 Yucca 12 Balacava 13 Exits 14 Lava 16 Ronse 20 Unity 21 Dumco 22 Esau 23 Feet



BOOKS

Fiction: Mailer and Gerhardt  
Up the Nile

**Ancient Evenings**  
By Norman Mailer

(Macmillan, £9.95)

A plague - the plague of Egypt - on Norman Mailer. He is probably the best, certainly the most conspicuous, still the most entertaining reporter of our times. He can write some of the best literary criticism in the English language, with acute critical and self-critical intelligence; sheer nerve. Even the occasional failure is a defiant step on what Emerson called the stairway of surprise. Now look what he has done.

"Grote thoughts and fierce forces are my state, I do not know who I am. Not what I was." A spectacular opening to *Ancient Evenings* fuels expectations that a powerful contemporary imagination has been working on some of the world's most ancient religious records: the *Pyramid Texts* of the 5th Dynasty, the *Book of the Dead*, and the *Coffin Texts* of the later Middle Kingdom. In the interplay of myth and ritual in Ancient Egypt, these spells and incantations ensured safe passage for the pharaohs into the next world.

Americans like Emerson, Whitman, Melville, Poe - and Europeans like Yeats - found potent inspiration in this archaic sorcery. Souls struggling free from bodies ritually prepared for ritual burial in unquiet graves. Magic. Sex. The world of the dead. Resurrection through reincarnation. No wonder that Mr Mailer finds inspiration, too. His long dialectical dance of death, sex, and Kabbalah - the Judaic Gnostic doctrine of evil Creation, antithetical to the Torah - should have found fine expression in a guided tour of a 19th Dynasty necropolis, evidently intended to represent late 20th century America.

The glum truth is that having found inspiration he has lost all sense of the ridiculous. 90 pages draw the reader into an extraordinary consciousness of the incarnate. The following 600 plunge to disaster. *Ancient Evenings* is not so much a novel, more a messianic mission; or a door-stop. Whatever it is, it is embarrassing.

But it is serious, as well as obsessively, extravagantly silly. Mr Mailer is on record with the remark that every writer thinks he is capable of anything. He is nothing if not courageous; he should be taken seriously, for he is out to save us, souls and all - or if not all, at least the Americans. He seeks to zap us out of darkness into light.

Previous acquaintance with Ra (god of the sun in zodiac symbol of divine order and

justice), Horus (Son of Ra), and Osiris (whose fertility cult predated and then supplanted that of Ra) may help readers drift between the cult centres of Heliopolis, Hermopolis, Memphis and Thebes; lost in a wilderness of reincarnated Kas. If you can keep your head without being driven demented by divinities, you too may be reincarnated one day.

Do not whatever you do, read *Ancient Evenings* for the plot. There is no such thing. There is a tedium of story-telling, a prodigious quantity of violence and sexual outrage among the quick and the dead, organized in seven "Books". The first two lay the mythological foundations for the whole. Major characters include Ramesses II, his Charioteer, Ramesses IX, a royal lion with "a wild look in his eye", and an outsize concubine called Honey-Ball, whose amputated little toe goes to show that a fellow never can tell where a girl has her G-spot until he starts in to find it.

Books III-VI run the gamut of Mr Mailer's long-standing obsessions. They are excessively long-winded. The Battle of Kadesh - an epic conflict between Ramesses II and the Hittites - makes "The Book of the Charioteer" interesting on tactics; numbing on horrors. Harsh intrigues twister to similar effect in "The Book of Queens". And it is beyond belief, religious or otherwise, that the most dedicated devotee of homosexual and/or heterosexual buggery will stand amazed at scenes exhaustively presented in language which script-writers for Mel Brooks or the Monty Python team might envy. Not to put too fine a point on it, Mr Mailer goes a bundle on buggery. Most of it, mercifully, is absurd.

"Men!" has the dominant narrating voice throughout: thrice-reincarnated Menehmet, Charioteer and victim of Ramesses II; one-time harpist, magic-maker, grave-rover. His stories, spun at the dinner table of Ramesses IX, span his four lives - by means merry ones - and a millennium. In and out of Meni fits his Ka: the personality or protective genius that rises from the body in the moment of death, and goes to meet its "double", or heavenly Ka. But from first breath to last gasp, the voices we hear, loud and clear, are those of Norman Mailer, wild child of Israel, and his Ka, who must have been Moses, once upon a time. Not for nothing has the 19th Dynasty been selected for their messianic purpose. In that era occurred the Flight from Egypt.

Gay Firth

An ark of exotics

**The Polyglots**  
By William Gerhardt

(Secker & Warburg, £7.95)

This marvellous novel was first published in 1925 when its author was 29. It was a *success d'estime*, and rightly so. Anthony Powell was put off reading it for several years because so many people recommended it. Evelyn Waugh "learned a great deal of my trade from it". Olivia Manning thought "it is the best of the novel". We all come out of him. (This was before the critical word "seminal" came into currency.) Manning's remark is a bit too vague to be viable, but it is certain that Waugh did learn a lot. Was Gerhardt a novelist's novelist merely? Alas, he wasn't a readers' novelist. He would have appreciated the irony of this re-issue six years after his death in obscurity. To hope that this time his book will get its due is a long hope. To use the ancient oratorical trick: I will not say it is a masterpiece, a classic; I will not speak of its sheer originality; or the lucidity, wit and irony of its writing; I will not comment upon the acuteness and vividness of its observation nor the intelligence and spirit. Thank you, Demosthenes, that will do. Have you read it? How could I have? The author thinks you might have.

Starkly to say what happens in this book would be utterly to spoil the way things happen. The scenes are exotic Japan, Far Eastern Russia (Harbin) in the aftermath of the War, 1920-1922, with muddled Allied Military Missions and so forth. The people are Belgian expatriates, White Russians, English, American, Japanese, and "I", the narrator, a young English officer named George Hamlet Alexander Diabologh. He is, he keeps telling us, an intellectual. He is vain, volatile, and very Chekhovian. All these people live in a shining golden mist, looming out, sometimes like the fogbound sheep Wordsworth saw, large as bears. Yet you accept them as entirely flesh and blood, trivial, repetitive and silly; witty, deceitful, and shy; loving, compassionate, tragical. Gerhardt achieves their personalities by a brilliant use of repeated phrases and tricks of speech which might seem caricature but are not.

He also has the play of using dialogue generally in English -

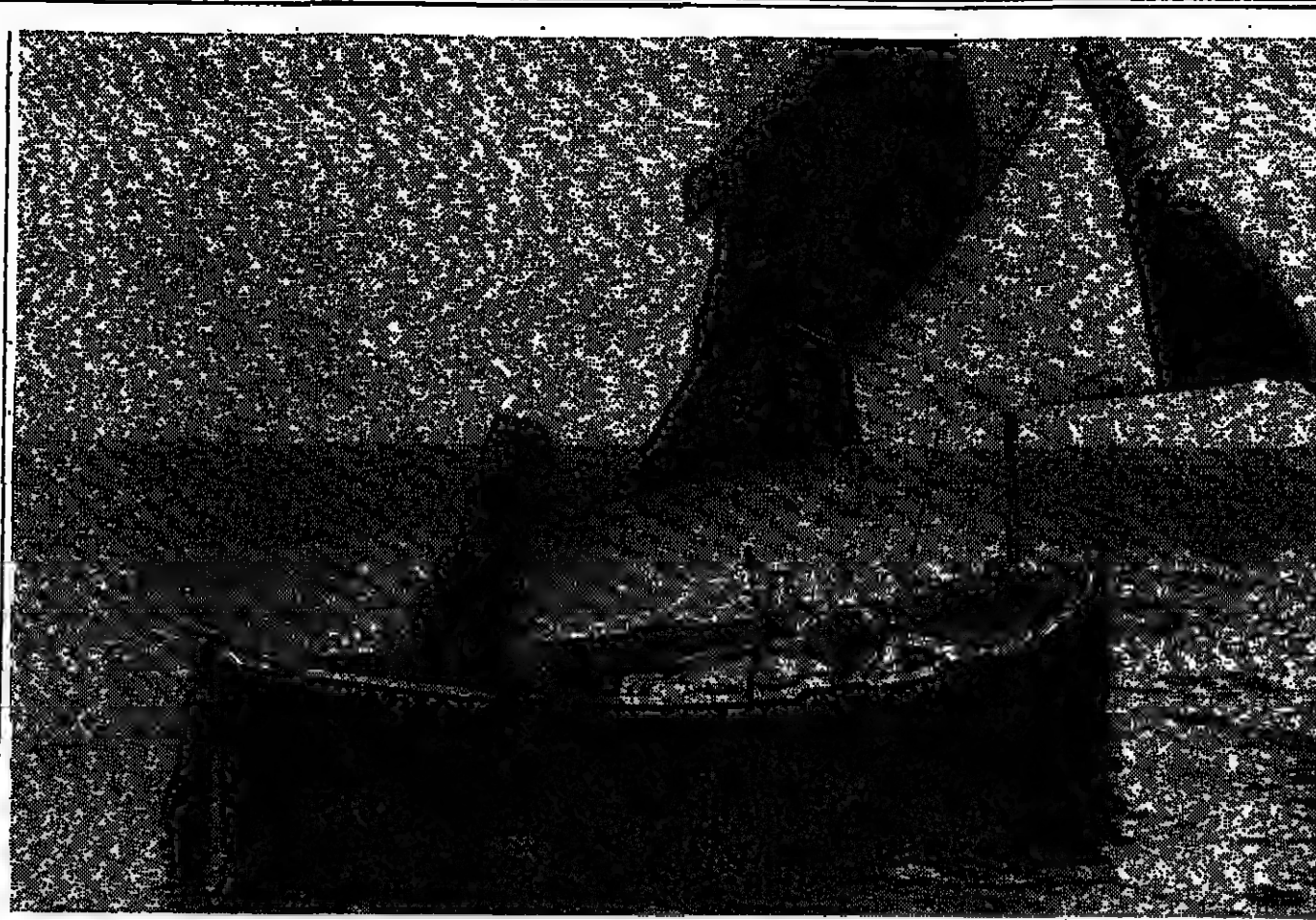
but for example, when Uncle Emmanuel tries to speak English, it is deplorable. George holds them together by being able to translate. Of course it is clear that George is largely William Gerhardt, who was brought up by his English parents in St Petersburg where his father was in business early in this century, and who only escaped from the Revolution because the Russians thought he was Keir Hardie. But the autobiographical element in the book is transformed and embellished by imagination and Gerhardt's own philosophical and self-mockeries.

It's no use here trying to trace the family trees of the Belgian Vanderflints and Vanderphants. They are cousins or aunts of George. There is a strong Russian mixture too, and an element of fantasy. George's father and one of his uncles are named Connie and Lucy, because the parents wanted girls. Indeed the invention of names "the mythical General Pan-la-Toon", or Percy Beasty, remind one of Firbank, as does the movement of plot via often seemingly inconsequent conversational digressions. The description of Captain Negodyasov who had "eyes as if he had stolen somebody's cufflinks and feared to be found out".

There are innumerable little cousins, children realized with a quite astonishing penetration and love. Somehow Gerhardt by his genius has created both an ark and a caravanserai with no one but these curious lovable vulnerable people, commanded by Aunt Teresa, in it. Things do happen, often bizarre, as Uncle Lucy's suicide, or as George at last sleeping with beautiful Sylvia on the very night of her marriage to Gustave, or the agonizingly tragic death by heart-stroke of little green-eyed Natasha in the Indian Ocean, on the sudden cataclysmic voyage home to England - to Belgium - to where in the world, or out of it?

Patric Dickinson

*A Slipping-Down Life*, by Anne Tyler (*Secker & Warburg*, £7.95); Anne Tyler is one of the up and coming American novelists, wickedly clever, and perceptive about what makes people tick. Her last novel, *Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant*, was well received over here. This is an early one, published for the first time in paperback in the UK. It is about a romantic girl and an ambitious rock-singer from a small Southern town; and it is good.



Storm swells, music swells, sail swells, and the hero escapes to meet his destiny

Resurrecting la gloire of Napoleon

**Napoleon**  
Abel Gance's Classic Film

By Kevin Brownlow

(Cape, £10.95)

Abel Gance's epic *Napoleon* was completed in 1972, but it was not until 1980 that an audience finally saw something that approximated to its maker's design. The effect was tremendous. This ancient, battle-scarred film proved it can still hold audiences enthralled through the seven or eight hours it takes, with intermissions, to play. Gance's grand historical panorama has lost none of its thrills, and the singular emotional crescendo - he called them "paroxysms" - which reach their climax when the screen bursts out to become a huge, triptych, generate a pitch of excitement without parallel in cinema.

Kevin Brownlow's story of the making and restoration of *Napoleon* reveals a maker who was altogether as remarkable as his film. Born illegitimate, Gance left school at 14. He pushed his way into the theatre as an actor and dreamed of being a great playwright. Working in the cinema was at first only a poor substitute, to pay the rent; but before he was 30, he had made himself one of the most important directors in Europe with innovative films like *J'accuse* and *La Roue*.

"There was nothing before or after quite like *Napoleon* though. Gance attempted everything. He gave the camera unlimited

mobility. He mounted it on sledges, on guillotine, on great pendulums, on horseback - though Kevin Brownlow says it is a myth that he enclosed it in a ball and threw it in the air: it seems he only thought of doing that. He carried editing techniques to their limits, using subliminal cutting, with shots of only a tenth of a second. He divided the screen into multiple images. For the triptych he devised complex shot relationships which still demand analysis. He alternately bombarded and seduced his audience.

Nobody thanked him. The film was cut and mutilated by the distributors; the triptych was abandoned. Historical assessments based on these bastard versions were not much altered by Gance's own unfortunate sound adaptations.

*Napoleon* would have passed away like that but for the obsession of Kevin Brownlow. When he first showed me *Napoleon* 29 years ago, he was still a schoolboy. By that time he had already reassembled about 90 minutes, which he screened on a 9.5 projector in his bedroom in Hampstead. Subsequently, he relentlessly scoured archives, private collections and junk markets across the world for the fragments from which eventually he restored *Napoleon's* glories.

With time he rallied support: the story has his villains, but there are heroes too - among them the British Film Institute, the National Film Archive, Thames Television and Brownlow's partner, David Gill. Above

all Carl Davis's orchestral accompaniment was to complement and crown Gance's own creation.

Before the dream was finally realized, Brownlow had worked on the film almost ten times as long as Gance himself. The almost culpable modesty of his record cannot conceal the heroism of the effort; and the excitement that sustained him is communicated, so that the reader shares the thrill of every new sequence found, every obstacle overcome. Brownlow writes as if it were a letter to a friend, and the revelations of his feelings are touching: "I'm in love with the whole film. It's part of me".

His story of *Napoleon* has sad and happy endings. The sad one is that with success (the resurrected *Napoleon* has already earned more than seven and a half million dollars) came the inevitable unseemly wrangling over rights and profits, which still continues. The happy end is that Gance lived long enough to see his dream restored. Kevin Brownlow remembers that among the slogans inscribed on his wall "For those with a mission to accomplish, bodily existence will last as long as is necessary". Just before he died in 1981, aged 92, Gance sent a last message to the *Napoleon* audience in London: "They have allowed me to rediscover through cinema my true language".

David Robinson

The best Prime Minister we haven't

**Roy Jenkins**

A biography

By John Campbell

(Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £10.95)

"Number Ten still beckons", this biographer writes of the Prime Minister-designate, in a closing passage which aptly mixes Jenkins' ambitions and the author's own aspirations. The kindest thing one can say at the moment is that Number Ten doesn't seem to be beckoning very hard.

One combs Dr Campbell's later chapters in search of hitherto undiscovered facts or insights which might shed light on Jenkins' thoughts and motives as he takes the kind of beating he apparently received at Ertick Bridge, but there is not a great deal to be gleaned.

Research along Jenkins' life and at Jenkins' door over the years and stoutly defends him against most. The smallest slight does not slip by uncorrected. His

country home at East Hendred was apparently once described as "ramshackle". Not so: it is "actually a very neat white-washed vicarage".

The book is at its best when the author sheds this defensiveness (and he is extraordinarily defensive about Anthony Crosland and Hugh Gaitskelli) and steps back a little from his subject. With more detachment, his descriptions of Jenkins now-forgotten Parliamentary speaking skills and his accounts of Jenkins' early perceptions of the coming difficulties which would force apart the components of the coalition known as the Labour Party, would carry greater weight.

Dr Campbell provides a fine account of Jenkins' literary and historical output, but is weaker on the workings of the civil service. He cites Jenkins' habit of writing his own budget speeches as evidence that he had mastered his department. Jenkins may indeed have done so, but a Chancellor drafting his

own budget speech - which might reveal anything from literary vanity to mistrust of official drafting - is not evidence in itself of such mastery. Was it really the case that his Permanent Secretary at the time had to book a seat on a flight to Washington to hold a proper talk with him? This may have made good dinner table anecdote at the time, but by the time the first biography comes round, I think we should be told.

Much evidence is glossed as tending to show that it is Mr Jenkins' destiny to shatter the mould. Dr Campbell does not tackle the problem that Mr Jenkins is himself a smoothly-turned product of this very mould and from a fairly early pressing. The SDP seems to be in the process of discovering that a man who ascended to the top of a mass-based party via the fast stream, may not be the ideal man to build a new one from the ground upwards.

George Brock

Poetry

Fish and miracles for breakfast

The American poet Elizabeth Bishop was probably undervalued in this country during her lifetime - she died in 1979 at the age of 68. Her work appeared in the usual anthologies; she received critical attention usually in the same breath as her older contemporaries Mary Marianne Moore; if she was praised it was nearly always for the same handful of poems, notable among them one called "The Fish", which were characterized as being brilliant bits of close natural observation. Now the publication of a sizeable volume entitled *The Complete Poems 1927-1979* (Chatto & Windus with the Hogarth Press, £10.95) affords the opportunity for some reevaluation of her gift. I should say at once that Bishop does not strike me as a poet of great emotional impact - but then emotion is not all the story, and the evasive wit she employs to hide her heart is part of the pleasure her work offers an attentive reader. At her best she achieves originality by describing exotic scenes in a manner of fact-way, as in "The Man-Moth", a powerful fantasy which takes off from a newspaper misprint for "man-moth". Her other wholly successful manner is to exploit a fanciful notion just this side of sentimentality, as in "Sleeping on the Ceiling".

We must go under the wallpaper to meet the insect-gladiator, to battle with a net and trident, and leave the fountain and the square.

But oh, that we could sleep up there....

The last line quoted wobbles in its wishfulness, but that is unusual for so fastidious a craftsman. Another very good poem is called "A Miracle for Breakfast", and that title can be employed to suggest what it is that Elizabeth Bishop has to give us: new ways of finding the miraculous in the everyday. She had her own vision, and she used her own voice to define it. I doubt whether she was a major poet, but verse in English is the poorer for her absence.

111 Poems (Carcanet New Press, £5.95) is a selection from the five books which Christopher Middleton has published since 1926. This poet has a reputation for being eccentric to the point of obscurity. The present volume shows that reputation to be more apparent than real, and in one longish impressive piece - "At Portbou" - Middleton demonstrates that the essence of his talent is for a kind of passionate description not all that far away from Wordsworth. The poem celebrates the poet's attempted rescue of a half-drowned bird: Early next morning, on the bay's north side, I found it cuddled under the cliff. The tide was low again. What hungry darkness Had driven so the dark young shape to shelter? It did not resist when I picked it up. Something had squeezed the colour out of it.

The bird resists the poet's attempts to feed and revive it; it dies, and he flings its corpse into the sea - Or perhaps (for I could not see the body falling) A hand rose out of air and plucked the corpse. From its ear took it, warm still, To some safer place and concealed it there. Quite unobtrusively, but sure, sure.

I very much like both the tone and the substance of that, and it sounds a note of quiet feeling also to be heard in some dozen or so other poems in this most accomplished book.

D. M. Thomas is now well-known as a novelist, but the writing of verse was his first vocation. His *Selected Poems* (Secker & Warburg, £6.95) contains a lot of work which is for my taste all too evidently motivated by the obsessions which went to the making of *The White Hotel* - Thomas, in his preface, calls those themes or obsessions "love and death" and "writing". He has verbal facility, but little sense of rhythm, and it is probably as well that he has now turned his ambitions to prose.

Finally a word in praise of Padraic Fallon's *Poems and Versions* (Carcanet New Press with Raven Arts Press, £3.95). Fallon was a distinguished Irish poet (1905-1974) who had little time for the politics of fame, and who published only one volume in his lifetime. This

Vanishing America

**Blue Highways**

A Journey into America

By William Least Heat Moon

(Secker & Warburg, £8.95)

A man who couldn't make things go right could at least go. Working on this brutally laconic premise, as transatlantic in its way as buckwheat pancakes, William Least Heat Moon, a part-Indian college teacher, having lost his wife and his job in quick succession, packed a half-ton Ford van with such obvious necessities for such an expedition as Whitman's *Leaves of Grass* and Neibardt's *Black Elk Speaks* and took the open road out of Missouri. He drove 13,000 miles around America and returned to write this brilliant and extraordinary book.

He travelled in search of the day-to-day America. He kept to the back roads, delineated blue on the highway maps of old America, the Blue Highways of his title, which take on a real sky-bluesness, observed only perhaps by very literate truck-drivers, just before the dawn and a little after dusk. This was an unashamedly romantic journey. Dodging the chuckholes that *Time* magazine estimates Americans spend \$25 million dollars per year in extra fuel to circumnavigate, William Least Heat Moon made for the small towns, the Tom Lehrer ones, the undeveloped towns which haven't yet seen neon light.

Here there is a taste of William Least Heat Moon in transit:

Since daylight I'd been hunting a good three- or four-calendar café. Nothing in Tomahawk or White Lake, Ellsborough, no. I crossed Cape Fear River, looked in Lumberton and found nothing right. Then I overshot a turn and got pulled out 1-93. Truck diesel spouts blowing black, the throttle-gas slammed past me as if I were powered by caged gorillas, campers hauling and found rusted into Saturday, and so did station wagons with windows filled full of beach-balls, cardboard boxes, and babies.

He writes well and showily not unlike Wolfe but less frenetic. His view of humanity is more akin to Alan Whicker's for he is gentle, quizzical, subtle and sure-footed in his approaches to places and to people, with an endearing patience in sounding out the ground.

Let me try to explain his attitude to cafes, especially the three- or four-calendar ones mentioned, for these are an important factor in his travels. It is in his view that nothing shows the tone of a small town more quickly than the breakfast grill or five-thirty tavern, and it is his theory that the quality of cafes in blue-highway America is instantly revealed by the number of calendars spied hanging on the wall. One- or two-calendar cafes are not worth stopping for (though two-calendar cafes which also display fish trophies may possibly be passable). Three- or four-calendar cafes are the

minimum acceptable, with OK farm-boy breakfasts and, with luck, a home-made pie. Five-calendar cafes are rare and best kept secret, in case the owners, swollen with success, decide to franchise. William Least Heat Moon writes lyrically of the meal they served him in his one six-calendar café, on the Ozark. But in the country where the frylines now proliferate, seven-calendar cafes have become a golden legend, and as for the old geologist who used to be able to tell whether food had been cooked east or west of the Kentucky River, this is part of a culture the most dedicated traveller (even one with his Walt Whitman in a Ford truck named "Ghost Dancing") is wasting his time chasing.

No, as William Least Heat Moon sardonically discloses, Ma is now rarely, if ever, in her beany or Pa in his barbecue pit. So if not there, where are they? This indeed is the big question. As traditional meeting-points around the town evaporate, each small community is seen to suffer from a sense of dislocation, and the silence is uncanny. Central Square hotels have gone, ousted by the down-town motels. There used to be the barber-shops, but since electronics conversation is now drowned by the whining of the hairdryers. Even the filling stations, where a bit of local news got exchanged from time to time, are now becoming "nothing but expensive puzzles", as the writer nicely puns it.

Such strange silences are wasteful. For Americans, of course, are nothing if not talkers, and this book's greatest glory, the thing which stays most clearly in one's mind when one has read it, is in fact the conversation, functional or philosophical, the human dialogues into which all US citizens searched down by "Ghost Dancing" are inevitably drawn, sometimes against their better judgment.

Of the hundreds of exchanges on the round trip from Missouri via Boring, Kentucky and Nameless, Tennessee, there are two which I found especially appealing. The talk with the edgy intellectual in Ohio:

"Homo viator?"  
"Thoreau travelled extensively in Concord."

"And Socrates learned nothing from fields and trees."

The stop at the Husky Café (without calendars) at Shelby, Montana, where the waitress slid a platter of three eggs down her arm:

"Only ordered two", I said.  
"The eggs was small tonight."

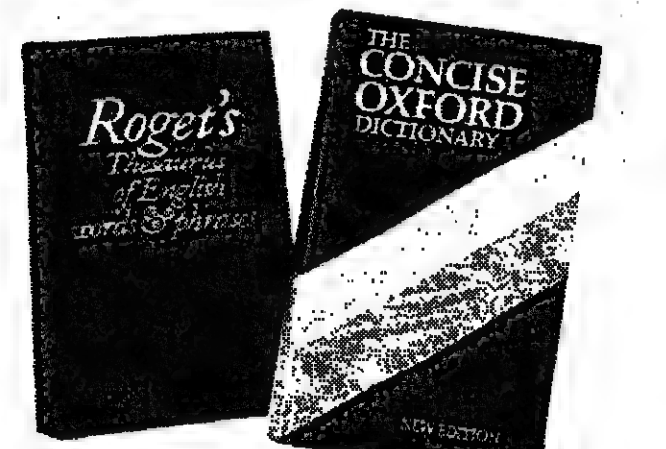
In Shelbyville, Kentucky, he sees a man obsessively pulling off the siding of a modern house, revealing an early nineteenth century log cabin. Such small scenes, sharply described with an unusual wit and deftness, accumulate to make a long large book of rare delight.

Fiona MacCarthy

Rome's North-West Frontier: The Antonine Wall, by William Hanson and Gordon Maxwell (Edinburgh University, £17.50); our other wall is not just a national monument. As Rome's northernmost frontier it is of interest to the whole civilized world. This definitive account, elegantly produced, gives not just the archaeology, but the history, the life, and the gossip of the wall.

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## THE TIMES DIARY

### Footinitism

I do not suppose for a moment that Michael Foot intends to immortalize Norman Tebbit, but at yesterday morning's press conference the Labour leader began speaking with alarming regularity of "Tebbitism". He did not specify the nature of this quality, other than saying that if the Tories were to be elected tomorrow, Britain would become "an ugly, uncaring, Tebbitite society". Later he even referred to "Tebbitism/Teabitterism": it does not have quite the ring of Busskellism, or even Marxism/Leninism, but I suppose one can get used to anything.

### Signing off

When I embarked on this anagram exercise, I never expected such copious assistance from my readers: brilliant though they have been, this is positively my last attempt to rearrange our politicians. The difficult Michael Heseltine becomes, thanks to Margaret Barclay of Brussels, either "Eee, I'm in Heath's cell" or "Eh! Silence the Mail!". Denis Healey's convoluted plea to his constituents is "Ah, ye in Leeds!", while the Labour leader shouts from his lonely perch: "Hill Come aloft!" To which David Owen replies: "A dive down". Gerry Finkle, of Barnet, delivers Francis Pym as "fancy prism". Roy Hattersley as "rat role, yet shy" and Bill Rodgers a "bridge rolls". From tomorrow I shall return to spelling names correctly and leave the fancy stuff to the crossword compilers.

My prize for the most upstaged event of the campaign goes to the London Borough of Barking, where a by-election is being held today.

### Of course

When vote-counting starts at Portsmouth South, David Fry (Traditional English Food and Good Life Party), my last free-thinking candidate, will already be tucking into his victory dinner. This will include venison broth, sprats in cream and mustard sauce, and sirloin of beef in pastry with game sauce. Fry's manifesto claims that we would all feel better and the economy would improve if we ate good traditional English food. He pledges that his appetite will continue undiminished, no matter how bad the overall result.

BARRY FANTONI



"Who said you can't fool all the people all the time?"

### Rising stock

This has not been the easiest of times for Sir Robin Day. First the Prime Minister removes his knighthood, then he receives the London Dungeon's Pillory Award for the personality whom its visitors would most like to see in the stocks and pelted with rotten eggs. Day narrowly beat Joan Collins and Michael Parkinson for the honour, previously held by Des O'Connor and Barbara Cartland. But Mrs Thatcher has made amends for her slip on the last Election Call she made and addressed him.

### Timber!

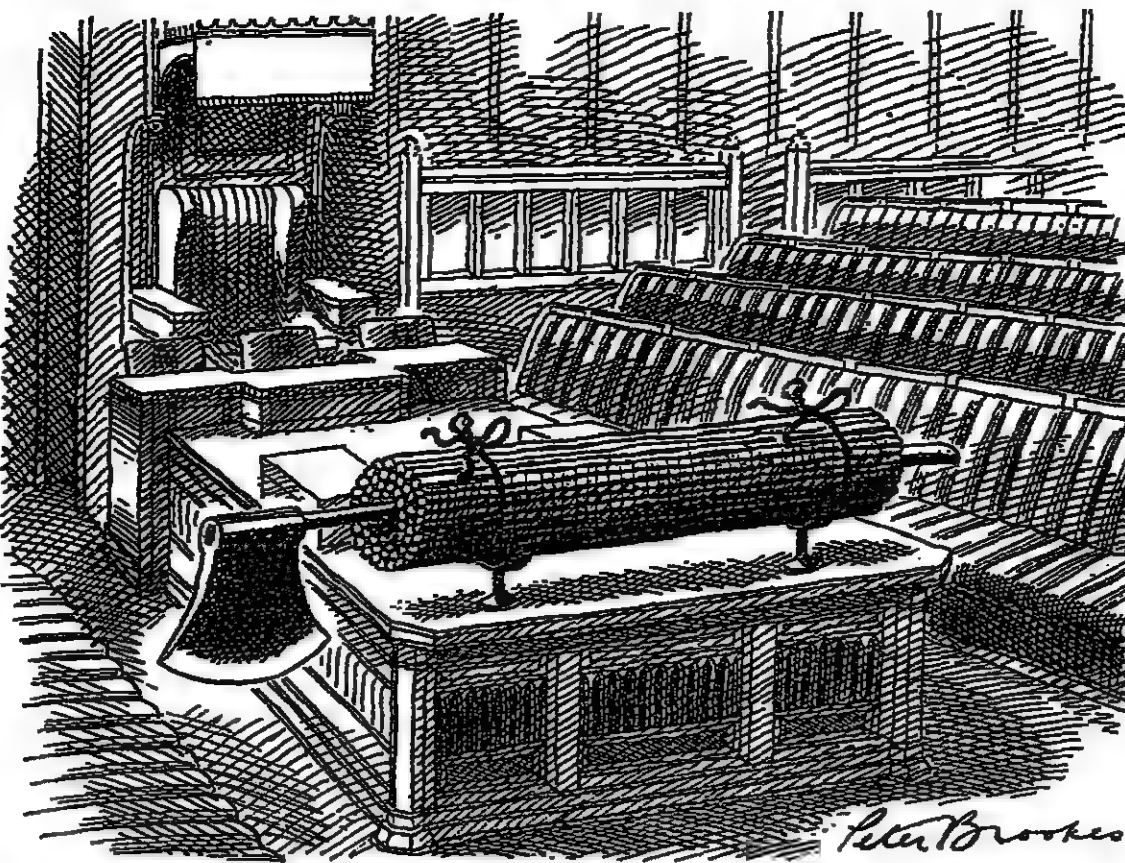
The Prince of Wales, Peter Jay and David Bellamy, among others, joined forces yesterday to launch the *Conservation and Development Programme for the UK*. Subtitled "a response to the World Conservation Strategy", it occupies two volumes, totalling 600 pages, and is perhaps 100 times as long as the document to which it is responding, which shorts us not to cut down too many trees and the like. The World Wildlife Fund has printed 4,000 sets, of which at least five (mostly unsolicited) have arrived at the office. Isn't that a bit of a waste, especially at £22.90 a set, and not even on recycled paper? "It reflects the very high esteem in which we hold *The Times*", says a quick-thinking conservationist.

As a junior secretary for Northern Ireland, David Mitchell is no stranger to the physical dangers of politics, but he had never, until this week, regarded North West Hamps as an area of high risk. For 19 years Conservative MP, Mitchell has been canvassing zealously in this constituency - almost too zealously. One door was opened by an attractive young woman, and they are joined on the doorstep by a "leopard setter", to whom the candidate addressed the following remarks: "Aren't you lovely. Aren't you gorgeous. I'd love to take you away with me." The husband, whom Mitchell describes as robust, was out of sight but not out of earshot and offered to his wife Mitchell's very tact averted an ugly scene, and he is even expecting the couple's 10th.

PHS

Bernard Levin on the strategy of Labour's new hard men

## Don't laugh too soon, the fascist left is just biding its time



answer in the form of another question: how many members of the Militant Tendency are there among the Labour majority on the Greater London Council? I am open to correction by Mr Douglas Eden or Mr Gerard Kemp, those two great taxonomists of the hard left's varieties, but I believe the answer is none. Yet who will deny that County Hall is now infested with members of a tendency far less naive, far wider in its ambit and far more confident of its ability to operate without disguise and yet prosper? It is not an organization at all, but it has been given a name, by Mr Tom Stoppard, which describes it with deadly accuracy: the "fascist left".

Such people are a minority among the Labour group on the GLC, but their feeble opponents among the majority have made only one attempt to challenge or check them (over Mr Ken Livingstone's attempt to invite the IRA to send representatives to London). Exactly the same situation exists in Sheffield, and now in Liverpool too; a number of local councils are similarly controlled, most notable among them the London Borough of Islington.

The conduct of these people is characterized by their contempt for the rights of the opposition parties, an attitude which is always one of the most reliable indicators of the totalitarian mind. Mrs Anne Sofer, the only SDP member of the GLC, has described on this page the way in which the rulers of the GLC contrive to prevent any examination of their looting of the public purse for distribution in donations to their supporters and potential supporters; the intimidation experienced by the only opposition member of Islington council would long ago have destroyed a less resilient man; in Sheffield the controlling group has gone far towards turning the city into something scarcely distinguishable from a Soviet city.

As powerful as the contempt for opposition is the contempt for the people - the other infallible test of the anti-democratic attitude. The groups which control the local authorities I have mentioned do not believe that any but a handful of voters want the policies they pursue; but they pursue them with relentless assiduity none the less. For they are

not in the business of serving the voters. Their business is something very different: it is the gathering of power. And the more they acquire, the easier it becomes for them to acquire still more.

It could not be supposed that the fascist left would long remain unrepresented in Parliament. What ever happened in this election, a substantial number of Labour MPs can do such a view of parliamentary democracy will have been returned. Some analysts have said that they will constitute a majority of the PLP; this seems to me very unlikely, though if their genuinely democratic colleagues prove to be as cowardly as their counterparts on the GLC, that will hardly matter.

Others say that if there is a Conservative government with a large majority there is nothing democratic's enemies in Parliament can do. Such a view underestimates the damage they can do to parliamentary democracy by their behaviour in the House of Commons - for I am willing to predict a considerable increase in intimidatory abuse, procedural obstruction and refusal to accept the traditional unwritten rules of Parliament which are essential to its proper working. The hard men among the new Labour intake will not set out to organize a coup and take over the country; such nonsense is nowhere in their minds. They will instead continue to aim at taking over the Labour Party, using the enormously more powerful position that having substantial numbers of their men in Parliament will give them. Their calculation is simple, and almost certainly correct: they reason that if they can complete their capture of the Labour Party, sooner or later the Labour Party, under their control, will win an election, not because the country has espoused revolutionary communism, but more or less by default. And then?

What we have to face is the fact that for the first time in Britain we have a genuinely Leninist movement that is of sufficient size, ability, and dedication to demand that we take it seriously. The Stalinists of the Communist Party, in or out of the PLP, have no real influence except in CND, some trade unions and labour relations

generally (though that "except" covers a great deal of success); the Militant Tendency will be employed by the Leninists wherever they can be useful to the cause, though the real hard men must despise them as much as Lenin despised his own equivalents (he wrote a pamphlet about them, called *Left-wing Communism: an Infantile Disorder*); but if the long march of the implacable enemies of democracy will not be speeded up by such groups on their flank, neither will it be slowed down by any respect for Parliament and its properties. There was nothing at all that Lenin would not do to further his aims; in this, too, Britain's Leninists resemble their evil patron.

If the Labour Party has lost today's election, particularly if it has lost it very badly, there will be laughter in many quarters at the absurdity of what I have said in this column. Allow me to assure the amused that none of the people I have in mind will waste their time laughing, or for that matter weeping, setbacks mean as little to them as the disesteem of their opponents, and they will simply continue with their work, inside Parliament now as well as outside.

That will not stop the laughing, either. But people have laughed before now, and subsequently decided that there was really nothing much to laugh at. Once upon a time before the First World War, or so the story goes (*se non e vero...*), when Trotsky was living in Vienna under his real name, Bronstein, he used to spend his days at the Café Central, where he would scribble interminable manifestos and articles for obscure magazines, which were smuggled into Russia in pitifully small numbers.

Two Austrian socialists were talking one day about the coming revolution. One, loyal to Marxist theory, insisted that it would come in an industrially advanced country like Germany; the other predicted that it would be in Russia. His friend told him he was talking nonsense; there wasn't even an urban proletariat in Russia, an essential prerequisite for revolution. "And besides," he concluded, "a revolution needs leaders, and who is there to lead a revolution in Russia - little Mr Bronstein, down at the Café Central?"

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Ronald Butt

## Why this election could be a real turning point

This election is first and foremost about the challenge that Mrs Thatcher represents for the British people. It is about her invitation to them to act on, and not to try to escape from, the realities with which she confronts them. Yet historically the election is about the Labour Party. For it was Labour's performance in the 1960s and 1970s - when, with the unions, it was the pivot of British politics - that brought us to a new turning point at which Mrs Thatcher emerged into power.

In 1945, the country elected the Attlee government because it wanted a new deal, because the social changes unleashed by the war had spread the conviction that the Tories were not the party to deliver one, and above all because the electorate had been convinced by the presence of Labour ministers in the wartime Cabinet that they were fit to govern. The prewar misgivings about Labour pacifism and its extremist wing had fallen away.

By 1951, after the Attlee government's injection of a large but not decisive dose of socialism into the body politic, the electorate had decided that it had had enough. It had got what it had principally wanted in the modern welfare state. But it did not want more nationalization and it came to suspect that Labour politicians liked controls, restrictions and bureaucracy for their own sake.

So the Conservatives were returned to power and a new political dispensation was established in which both Tories and Labour broadly acquiesced. Both parties accepted the post-1945 welfare state, a free society and a mixed economy - though each party drew somewhat differently the desired lines between individual and collective responsibility, and between private and public ownership. There was a bipartisan defence and foreign policy.

After 13 years of Tory government (which, following the fashion of that time, inclined increasingly towards economic planning at the end of its term) Harold Wilson led Labour back to power. He was able to do so because his predecessor, Hugh Gaitskell, had defeated attempts to commit Labour to leaving socialism. Wilson was (just) in 1964, and again in 1966 because he convinced enough of the electorate that Labour would maintain the mixed economy and could solve the nation's problems by voluntary planning for prosperity in consultation with the trade unions and managements. Economic growth, secured by agreement, would pay, painfully for better benefits for all.

The unions destroyed that grand design by refusing to deliver the pay restraint required by the government's plans. They defeated a similar Tory attempt under Edward Heath and created a crisis in which the electorate drove the Conservatives from office, but significantly refused Labour an outright majority. With either no majority, or with a tiny majority, or with the help of the Liberals the Wilson-Callaghan governments of 1974-79 survived to try to control a deteriorating economy - this time by blatantly buying the unions off with the Dangeled of government spending. Predictably, the unions behaved like marauding Danes and in the winter of 1978-79 destroyed the Callaghan government.

Their success in doing so was due in large measure to the capture by the leftwing of the strongpoints of Labour's power, which previous Labour leaders had successfully defended. Adopting the attitudes of the Popular Front towards the extreme Marxist groups now infiltrating the party, the left quickened its push for power after 1979, driving some of the party's social democrats out altogether and forcing others to acquiesce in policies they disagreed with. The election of Mr Foot as leader was the symbol of the left's triumph.

So the national consensus of the 1950s and early 1960s was broken, and Labour offered the nation a socialist party of the kind that the British people have repeatedly shown they do not want. Mrs Thatcher, therefore, had to start from first principles. There was no solution through the old consensus ideas of incomes policy; Labour had destroyed them. Some of Mrs Thatcher's colleagues found it hard to accept that so sharp a break with the past had to be made. They feared that the Conservatives would be punished if they attempted a new beginning. Today, those fears are likely to be shown to have been misplaced, in its heart, the nation already understood the truth that Mrs Thatcher expressed.

Mr Foot complains that the Tory lead in the opinion polls throughout the campaign reflects the bias of the media. If that were true it would still not explain the Tory lead before the campaign began. Nor, in face of three million unemployed, would the so-called Falklands factor. Looking back over past elections I am convinced that the outcome is usually (not invariably) determined before the campaign starts. The electorate largely decides on its memory of the parties' behaviour over preceding years. The apparent uncertainty of many during a campaign is comparable to the behaviour of a man who knows in his heart that he is going to buy a particular house, and yet cannot bring himself to say so until near the end - preferring to test his decision by open options and voiced doubts.

But the decision (saving only surprising new information) is virtually made. Likewise, the people knew what they were going to do about this election long before the campaign started. They knew there could be no return to the old consensus; that the Labour Party is no longer a representative party.

If there is a landslide (and landslides, as in 1906, 1931 and 1945 can be valuable turning points in social change and political opinion), it will force the unions and the moderates who stand to the left of centre to come to terms with the nation's historic rejection of socialism. Whether there is a Tory landslide, or whether the Alliance gets a slice of Labour's lost territory, the Social Democrats will have to redefine their policies to mean something different to those of the dead Wilson-Gaitskell years.

As for Mrs Thatcher, whether she has a landslide or merely a solid victory, she will have the making of the new terms of political reference - and to endure it must be based on magnanimity and the expression of the national will above all class interests. The decline and fall of the Labour Party teaches us that that is what the nation wants.

William Safire

## Raining cats and anchovies

Washington  
The gravest question facing the world today is: Who or what is tampering with El Niño? El Niño de Navidad - Spanish for "the Christ child", because of its appearance each year around Christmas - is the warm current that flows down the Pacific coast of South America, periodically playing havoc with fishing and even reversing the direction of trade winds. Most years, this "southern oscillation" is pushed back out to sea by the icy Humboldt current, in which anchovies gambol. Not last year or this.

This spring the most persistent El Niño in a century has caused storms in Texas, tornadoes in California, persistent rain in Paris and floods in West Germany. The world has rarely been so wet; prudent people can hardly be blamed for thinking about ark.

After a six-fathom-deep back-ground session with the anchovy expert at the CIA, I predicted 10 years ago that the use of electronic fish-finders by greedy Latin fishermen in the face of El Niño would lead to decimation of the catch, a worldwide protein shortage and an explosion of inflation. Since all this came to pass, the pundit on top of the El Niño story intends to stay there.

Who or what is behind El Niño's rampage? Round up the usual suspects:

1. Right-wing Peruvian fishing interests  
This theory doesn't hold water. Fishermen have learned not to tamper with El Niño but to accept its periodic recession as a healthy corrective to times of abundance. Would that economists could learn so quickly.

2. The Russians  
Certainly the motive is present. Marxist-Leninists have much to gain from economic dislocation throughout the world, and revolution breeds best where the skies are cloudy all day. Could not a technocracy capable of shipping the gas of Siberia to the kitchens of Europe also be able to divert one ocean current?

What was America's Glimar Explorer looking for down there anyway? Moscow has been outspending America 10-to-1 on bathythermographs, and neo-oscillationists have been deriding America's efforts to catch up.

3. Volcanoes  
Some crack-brained meteorologists argue that the eruption of El Cichón in Mexico, and the continuing sootiness of Mount St Helens in the United States, messed up the trade winds by warming the upper atmosphere and thereby prevented El Niño from being blown out to sea. This is balderdash.

4. The Martians  
A malign presence in outer space would be expected to put El Niño to use with simple gravitational suspension. On the other hand, benign visitors from other solar systems might want to rinse the waxy buildup off the Earth a little so as to observe us better. No hard evidence of other worldly intervention comes to hand, but certainly this possibility is more credible than drivel about volcano soot.

5. God  
Modern theologians are loth to attribute stress-causing vengeance to a Divine Being, but who is to say He hasn't been given good reason to rain down hailstones? Those who tend to dismiss this hypothesis are given pause by the name of the current.

6. The Devil  
It could be that the previous suspect is not angry yet may consider another test of faith to be desirable. In that case El Niño could be put in the hands of the Prince of Mud Slides for a year or so, temporarily to visit injustice on home owners and to reward renters. None of these potential causes for the affliction of El Niño can be ruled out, with the exception of volcanoes, which is ridiculous. Personally, I tend to blame the Russians. If they're not doing it, they're probably getting away with something else, and it ovens out.

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### The press and the election: Christopher Ward looks for a pattern in Fleet Street's spate of union disruption

Now that the election is all over bar the voting, I hope that Fleet Street will be taking a look at the sinister and significant events that have taken place on its own doorstep during the campaign: namely, the attempts by the unions, with some success, to interfere with the freedom of the press.

The first attempt to surmount an editor was made by members of the National Union of Journalists (branch office at the *Daily Mail*, who protested at the paper's one-sided coverage of the campaign and called on the editor, Sir David English, to correct the imbalance. Judging by subsequent issues of the *Mail*, this protest was entirely unsuccessful. But on Saturday night more than 200,000 copies of *The Observer* were lost when the editor, Donald Treflford, refused members of the National Graphical Association the right of reply to a Conservative Party advertisement. As *The Observer* is one of the few national newspapers to support the Labour Party, one wonders what the printers hoped to achieve by keeping the paper off the streets.

The following night the first edition of the *Daily Express* was printed with a blank space where its main leader should have appeared. Other editors, Sir Larry Lamb, refused the NGA the right of reply. The printers took particular exception to the first paragraph, which said: "The rain poured down yesterday on the March for Jobs rally in London. Most people will say: 'Serve them right.' Again, the union backed down, but not before several thousand copies of the paper were effectively censored."

And, of course, the voice of the *Financial Times* has been silenced during the crucial last week of the

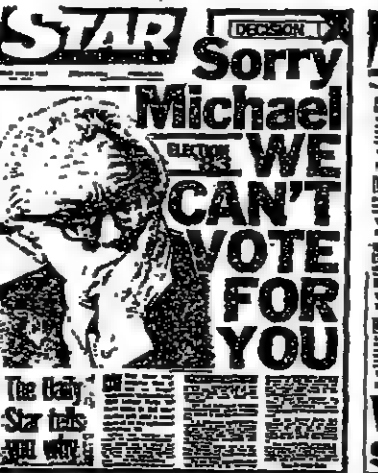


The Star gives it to them straight, so does the Mirror - but too late to have an impact

election campaign by an NGA walk-out over a pay dispute. Since the *FT* is one of the few politically independent newspapers and had been taking a particularly unfriendly view of the Government, it is hard to see the political thinking behind the printers' action. But in the climate of this industrial censorship, Arthur Scargill's remarks that "legislation to take newspapers into state ownership should take priority above all else for any future Labour government" ought to be treated by Fleet Street as a serious threat to editorial freedom.

Tuesday was the day that cynics, students of humbug and readers of the *Daily Star* had been awaiting with excitement and anticipation since the beginning of the election. The *Daily Star*, adopting the slogan, "the paper that gives it to you straight", had promised its readers impartial reporting of the campaign and "our verdict loud and clear when the time comes". Which party would this fiercely independent paper with a Tory proprietor end up backing? The suspense was killing.

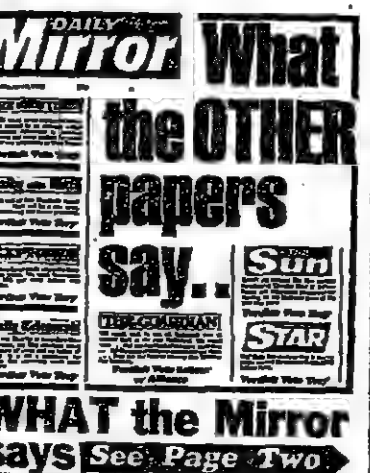
But on Tuesday we were put out of our misery. "Sorry Michael, we can't vote for you," said the *Star's*



class no longer speaks for its workers.

Something eerie about this general election; something not quite real. What's eerie about it is that unlike most elections, we all know, or think we know, what the outcome of this one is going to be, thanks to the unprecedented number of polls that have been conducted. As a result newspapers are beginning to repeat themselves: "There's no stopping her now," read the *Mail's* banner headline on Monday. Yesterday, sounding tired and slightly bored, it announced "It's still Maggie by a mile."

The boredom factor has to be the reason for so much mud-slinging so late in the day, much criticized by the *Times* voters' panel this week. Like a crowd of soccer hooligans drifting home after a game, supporters of the losing team can't resist heaving the odd brick through shop windows, and the winners can't stop themselves from jeering. I think we should all be grateful to the Prime Minister for not having prolonged the agony until June 23. The author was until recently editor of the *Daily Express*.



WHAT the Mirror says See Page Two





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## RENEWAL

Decisive changes in history are generally attributed to external causes. In reality most changes in external circumstances arise as the culmination of a long process occurring gradually within the unconscious minds of individuals. Societies subscribe to a prevailing attitude to life which often dominates all conscious behaviour and thus takes much longer to change on the surface than underneath it. Today some 42 million people will be able to exercise their votes, as individuals. They will do so in the confidential privacy of a secret ballot. There will be no show of hands; no block vote bullying. The result will thus be the aggregate of millions of individual expressions of personal opinion. It will, in that sense, be the expression of a community's will as voiced by individuals acting on their own without external pressures. They have today an opportunity, as individuals, to signify one of those historic moments of change.

After four weeks of challenge and response, insult and argument, forecasts and recasts, lies and statistics, the voter is at last to be left to decide for himself. That is a decisive and priceless element in our democratic procedures. It means that, for all the quasi science of opinion polling and what might be called behavioural politics, the decision ultimately rests on genuine and individual choice. So should every decision, even an historic one, since in the last analysis the essential element of all history is not the passage of captains and kings, but the life of the individual.

Of course such a process has its risks. They are not the risks which political leaders might perceive: that such a society of individuals would produce unpredictable and unwelcome decisions. That does not happen in a healthy society, which is one able to reconcile its own collective needs with the requirement

to nourish and sustain each person's individualism. That healthiness comes about through a public and private capacity for self-criticism.

For the last three weeks we have seen and heard much discord. That discord is evidence of self-criticism both for the nation as a whole and for individuals. We can nationally profit from this kind of exposure, since the divisions within the body politic are probably reflected in each of us as witnesses or participants in the contest. That is as it should be. Our dislikes are normally concentrated on the things which, in reality, reveal to us our own imperfections. So it is with the nation. Fighting a general election among ourselves, therefore, is a much better way of seeing our own faults than of projecting them onto our neighbours or potential adversaries.

We should thus look upon a general election as an opportunity for renewal. While the argument has raged it has naturally focused on all the surface phenomena of political management; and of those none could be nearer the surface than the results of opinion polls. They have, in a strictly technical sense, preconditioned the nature of the debate. Consequently the Conservative policies have not really been tested, nor have they had to be since the polling suggested from the start that there was neither a credible nor a credible alternative government. Perhaps this meant that the press, television and even the opposition parties themselves progressively bowed to what appeared to be the inevitable.

It would be tempting to conclude from this that the opinion polls have somehow deadened the debate and that they could thus be blamed for a distorted result tomorrow. That would be a false argument. It is based on the fallacy that the choice of a new government, because it appears to be encapsu-

lated in a three week election campaign culminating in a vote, is not made by most people until three weeks before that vote. Superficially that may seem to be the case when the process of profound change is masked by the prevailing views and attitudes of a society which, like all societies, finds no pleasure in the spectacle of a new idea.

That idea, whose time has come - or come again - is not concerned with the details of economic policy, or unemployment, or nuclear weapons. It is not about these particulars, though the debate about them has helped to illuminate deeper attitudes nearer to the core of human nature. The idea is ultimately about the individual's responsibility for himself, and through this self-awareness his responsibility for his community.

At the heart of all the policies presented to us during the election campaign that philosophy is only discernible in practical application from the Conservatives, and only then on account of the fact that the Prime Minister - like her or loathe her - is an example of what an individual can achieve, both for herself and for the community, if she applies her own standards of values to the world about her.

That sense of individual responsibility must be restored more fully in public affairs, in the board room, in trade unions, in schools, in the council estates.

Then Britain would indeed profit from a truly profound renewal. New ideas are here, they are enemies of the old. They appear as a rule in an extremely unacceptable form to the old custodians of Britain's post-war decline wherever they are found. Of all Britain's political leaders today Mrs. Thatcher provides the most effective challenge to that decline. As Airey Neave said to her on the night she was elected to lead the Conservative Party: "Come, we have work to do". She has indeed.

## THE GREENING OF BRITAIN

Buffeted and benumbed with manifestos, the public might feel entitled to hope that election eve should be left free to give time for quiet rumination over the clamour of recent weeks and preparation for its consummation today. But no such luck yesterday had been marked down long before election day was named for the launch of the British response to the challenge on environmental strategy thrown out to the nations by the World Wildlife Fund in 1980. It is unfortunate for the manifesto, 'Resourceful Britain', that its promoters were unable to wrench it aside from this collision with manifestoes of another kind.

It is of course the second ecological manifesto to come before the voter during the campaign. The Ecology Party may draw some late comfort, and even votes, from this voluminous endorsement of some of their policies. With a legitimate eye to the ruling preoccupation of national debate, the party stressed the aspects of its programme which held out hopes of new jobs - labour-intensive agriculture, land reclamation, renovation and insulation of homes, and capital investment in energy-efficient services. These prospects give an attractive and relevant aspect to a package of proposals that tend to be high-minded, narrow in appeal and

remote from the everyday - such as unilateralism, land nationalisation, world-wide birth-control promotions, and a line on animal rights which claims "uncompromising radicalism" while finding room for appeasement of the voter with rod and line.

"Resourceful Britain" agrees that there are jobs in environmentalism. But it is more thoughtful and less upbeat. It counts the cost: putting a price for instance of £34,000m on a ten-year programme of urban housing renewal. It points out that there are hardships as well as work opportunities in a programme of thrift and the forswearing of growth, and includes in its list of "Ideas whose time is up" the hope of return to full employment in conventional full-time jobs. The adaptations it sees us being required to come to terms with are: less easily digestible, more truly radical, than any party would willingly set out in an election manifesto. Being under no pressure to whistle to keep the voter's spirits up, it looks relatively coolly at the hopes and fears for a future extending far beyond the life of the next Parliament, and far beyond the sectional interests of a British electorate, or of Europe, or the West.

The meat of it is in the small print. The broader the brush with which policies in this field

are drawn, the easier it is to command assent, and vice versa. A glance at its list of summarised conclusions might lead the reader to think that its quangoistic origins had imposed a bland readiness to be all things to all men. We none of us oppose reducing pollution, after all, or "promoting resourceful urban enterprises". The question is how and at what cost in public spending and public intervention in private affairs. The report has a decided bent towards intervention, but at the same time stresses the importance of local and individual self-help in combating the apathy-inducing problems of urban and industrial decay.

It has firm and controversial strictures to make on specifics, like the official conduct of the Sizewell debate, the influence of the Common Agricultural Policy on the landscape and the loss of fertile land under concrete and tarmac. It insists on the dangers of insularity in our comparatively well-favoured corner of a world wasting its resources at an accelerating rate. It reaffirms in modern terms, and with a wealth of detail, the wisdom of Bacon's old maxim that the right way to rule nature is to do it by yielding to her. It would be a pity if so far-seeing a document failed to catch attention just because of an ephemeral national fluster about an election.

## Compulsory insurance

**From Mr Michael Harvey, QC**  
Sir, Mr David Hancock expresses the hope (June 3) that the next Parliament will address itself to devising a suitable scheme for compulsory public liability insurance.

I write, not to debate whether such a scheme should be introduced, but to comment that some measure of protection against the risk of the defendant being uninsured is already available.

Your readers will, of course, be aware that the average household's contents policy provides the policyholder and his family with public liability cover for many types of incident which occur away from the home. This should prevent them from becoming bankrupt defendants if, for example, they are negligent in the circumstances described by your correspondent.

What, however, is to happen if they are themselves injured and the negligent defendant is uninsured? Help is given by some such policies which contain, as part of the insurance package, an extension providing insurance against unsatisfied judgments. Wordings may vary, but the general scheme is that if the policyholder or a member of his family is injured by a defendant who is unable to satisfy the judgment awarded against him (and the circumstances are such that had the defendant been reversed the plaintiff could have been entitled to indemnity under the policy) the

policy-holder's own insurance company will pay the damages. This extension should therefore prevent the policyholder and his family from becoming uncompensated plaintiffs in the circumstances described by Mr Hancock.

Such extensions are included in the policies of several leading insurance companies and in my view go a long way towards avoiding at least one of the misfortunes referred to by your correspondent.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL HARVEY,  
2 Crown Office Row,  
Temple, EC4A.  
June 3

## Hedge against loss

**From Mr P. J. Angier**  
Sir, Not for the first time, it has been implied in your columns that the processes of hedge-laying and trimming are mutually exclusive (letter, June 3). This is not so.

A stockproof barrier is created from a hedge by laying it. The raw material for this is a hedge which has grown away from a path or through a ground level and pulled over to lie at an angle. It remains alive. New growth rises vertically and, by growing through the laid parts, forms a dense barrier after a year or two, all of which is living.

When this has been done the hedge can be trimmed to keep it in shape for many years, probably 20 at least, and it does not matter much

whether the trimming is done by hand or machine. In the end the hedge loses its structure, and should be left to grow away for a few years before starting the whole process again.

The hedge may have to be supplemented by wire immediately after laying, or if the laying stage is left out. It is the omission of laying which produces gaps in a hedge, not the trimming.

Incidentally, it seems almost impossible to maintain a healthy hedge under mature hedgerow trees.

Yours faithfully,  
P. J. ANGIER,  
Yeaman's Farm,  
Stour Row,  
Shaftesbury,  
Dorset.  
June 3

## Real tombstones

**From Mr Christopher Stell**  
Sir, The Reverend Christopher Marshall's campaign for real tombstones (report, May 30) will be welcomed by all who have a feeling for the quality of our churchyard memorials. Perhaps he might be encouraged to extend his campaign to real churchyards with monuments no longer regimented or flattened and where James Harvey's 'Meditations' may still be "among the Tombs" rather than pastures created by equally verdant improvers.

Yours etc,  
CHRISTOPHER STELL,  
The Athenaeum,  
Fell Mail, SW1.

## Profit and loss at the polls

**From Lord Harlech and others**  
Sir, Now it is all over but the voting. Yet that is where a serious question arises. Predicting the result of a three-way contest in a first-past-the-post election is foolhardy, for the relationship between the parties' final share of votes and seats will be very distorted.

However, assuming the current opinion polls are approximately right, we venture three predictions. First, that a Conservative vote of around 45 per cent will be rewarded with a substantial overall majority of seats.

Second, that the remaining 55 per cent of votes will be rewarded with a minority of seats.

Third, that within that minority, comparable votes for Labour and the Alliance will be rewarded in seats in a ratio of approximately 5-1.

The advantage given to one particular party on this occasion could well be reversed at the next election.

This is neither fair nor rational. It distorts the intention of the electorate in a way which damages democratic representation.

Surely this is the last election that should be held on the present ludicrously inequitable and outdated voting system.

Yours faithfully,  
HARLECH, Chairman,  
National Council for Electoral Reform,  
EYERS,

NIGEL FISHER,  
HOUGHTON OF SOWERBY  
(Vice-Chairman),

CHRISTOPHER CHATAWAY  
(Hon Treasurer),

SEAMUS BURKE  
(Chief Executive),

BURTON OF COVENTRY,  
AUSTIN MITCHELL,  
KATHARINE WHITEHORN,  
National Council for Electoral Reform,  
60 Chandos Place, WC2.

**From Mr P. M. Roth**  
Sir, "Tomorrow is ours", declared Mrs Thatcher to a massed youth rally in the Wembley Conference Centre on Saturday. She was clearly referring not simply to the result of the election but to her distinctive vision of a future Conservative Britain.

Is there not something profoundly alarming in the Conservatives' concerted efforts both to portray Labour as an extinct political force and, at the same time, to decry the attempt of the Alliance to establish a credible alternative?

They may, indeed, be nothing intrinsically undemocratic in a landslide majority. But in a system where the Government faces neither the check of an effective second Chamber nor the control of an entrenched Constitution, a massive majority for the party in government is inherently unhealthy.

It was Lord Hailsham who described the British political system as an "elective dictatorship". Presidential politics without either a separately elected Congress or the safeguard of the Supreme Court would be unthinkable in the United States.

The presidential-style politics that is foreshadowed by the Conservative election campaign, and which a landslide Conservative victory

would promote, is a dangerous portent for the political future of Britain.

Yours faithfully,  
P. M. ROTH,  
Gray's Inn Chambers,  
Gray's Inn, WC1.

**From Mr Peter Farr**  
Sir, Mrs Thatcher is right to point out that the only opinion poll which counts is that of the ballot box. David Butler (feature, June 7) points out truly that an election is about issues and not about predictions. Your leader on "Ultimate things" (May 12) reminded us of the gravity of the issues.

Should the third of Mr Butler's scenarios of absurdity come to pass, and should the views of nearly one third of the voters be represented in the House by less than one twentieth of the members, may we hope that the incoming administration will give due weight to the seriousness with which this submerged third have approached the major issues of our time?

Yours faithfully,  
PETER FARR,  
12 Besky Lees Road,  
Kensington,  
Sevenoaks,  
Kent.  
June 7

**From the Reverend J. R. Hopcraft**  
Sir, British general elections, are parliamentary elections, not leadership elections. Between 1974 and 1979 all three major parties changed their leaders without consulting the electorate.

It is wrong for parties to glorify their leaders as though the voters were actually going to vote for them. The only votes for Thatcher, Foot, Steel or Jenkins will be cast in their own constituencies.

Yours faithfully,  
JONATHAN HOPCRAFT,  
The Vicarage,  
Blyton,  
Gainsborough,  
Lincolnshire.  
June 7

**From Lord Shawcross, QC**  
Sir, PHS, in his amusing comment (May 31), has however not got it quite right. I have not turned full circle. In my recent speech I said that I was in fact the original SDP, having left the Labour Party over 20 years ago, believing that it would be taken over by the extreme left wing and believing that electoral reform and an elected second Chamber were the only safe insurance against political extremes.

I said that a Labour victory at this election would be an irreversible disaster for the country and I hoped that the Conservatives would win. But I also urged the large moderate Labour Party to vote for and then join the SDP, so that after the election that party would become the effective Opposition, leaving the Marxists, Trotskyists, Workers' Revolutionaries & Co out on a limb. Thus we could return to the old Whig/Tory tradition of Britain's greater days.

Meanwhile I remain - and suspect I always was - a Whig.

Yours sincerely,  
HARTLEY SHAWCROSS,  
House of Lords.  
June 2

**Military degree**  
**From Mr Duncan H. Robinson**  
Sir, The Duke of Edinburgh (report, June 3) is not the first Prince Consort to take up the idea of a military degree: it was a subject considered by Prince Albert 120 years ago!

In two papers written in April, 1861, Lt.-Col. James Baker, then commanding the Cambridge University OTC, advocated a military degree at the universities, with "an examination for honours in military science." The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge wrote to the Secretary for War on May 6, 1861, commending the papers for further consideration.

The subject of the education of officer candidates was something which greatly interested Prince Albert and he had corresponded with both the Commander-in-Chief of the Army and the Secretary for War on this subject during the period 1857 to 1861. Baker's papers were read by the Prince and Baker was called to Windsor to explain his ideas more fully.

As a result, the Prince took up the idea of a military degree and it has been suggested that such a degree would have been instituted under his patronage had it not been for the Prince's premature death in December, 1861.

Without the Prince's support Baker's project was lost, although by 1863 the scheme of issuing certificates of exemption for officer candidates with university degrees had been instituted; thus, a university degree admitted to the Army without further examination.

Yours faithfully,  
DUNCAN H. ROBINSON,  
The Orchard Cottage,  
Hawkhurst,  
Kent.  
June 4

**Where orchids flourish**  
**From Dr A. S. Thomas**  
Sir, Botanists will be delighted that the Nature Conservancy is taking steps to protect some of our less common orchids (report, May 19). But it must be remembered that rabbits are a greater menace to these beautiful and interesting plants than are humans.

When feral rabbits were virtually eliminated by myxomatosis in the 1950s, there was a spectacular increase in orchids, which appeared in places where they had not been seen for many years and at that time twelve distinct species, some in great abundance, were growing on the Old Winchester Hill national nature reserve. But when feral rabbits were allowed to increase, most of the orchids disappeared. If only the sale of wild rabbit meat and skins had been forbidden, as in New Zealand, many of our less common plants would have increased, as in New Zealand.

The orchids, the cowslips and other desirable plants of our chalk downs are concentrated on the hard layers of the chalk. If one species of orchid grows at a certain place, then other species are likely to grow there, a fact which indicates that soil factors influence the soil fungi on which the orchids depend.

Our farm crops have gained vigour through the correction of soil deficiencies; it is highly desirable that soil deficiencies should be corrected for the benefit of our more desirable wild plants.

Yours faithfully,  
ARTHUR THOMAS,  
Goodings,  
Slope Lane,  
Afriston,  
East Sussex.

**Volcanoes and weather**  
**From Dr Basil Gomez**  
Sir, In answer to Dr and Mrs Richard Ward's query (June 3) concerning the existence of meteorological records of weather conditions prevailing in western Europe immediately after 1824, I should like to point out that the Radcliffe Meteorological Station, Oxford, has maintained a continuous meteorological record since 1815.

Yours faithfully,  
BASIL GOMEZ,  
Radcliffe Meteorological Observer,  
Jesus College,  
Oxford.  
June 3

**View from No 10**  
**From Mrs C. J. H. Wright**  
Sir, Sir Fife Clark, in his recollections of the arrangements for the television of the Coronation, has said, in your paper (report, May 30) and on the BBC PM programme, that at the time there was no television set at 10 Downing Street.

I can assure him that, at least on Coronation Day itself, there certainly was. Thirty years ago today I, as a child of five, watched the ceremony on it.

Yours faithfully,  
CATHERINE WRIGHT,  
Coulour, High Street,  
High Shindcliffe, Durham.  
June 2

**Wayward water**  
**From Dr Magnus Pyke**  
Sir, Professor John Laurie (May 30) is mistaken in his belief that his observation of water running clockwise down one plug-hole and anticlockwise down another in his house in Port Moresby implies that the conclusion that the Coriolis forces influence the direction of the vortex in the northern and the southern hemispheres is a myth. He has merely demonstrated that a kitchen sink is an unsatisfactory measuring instrument with which to detect, at 11" south, so subtle a phenomenon.

The classical research on bathwater was done by Professor Ascher Shapiro, head of the department of mechanical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1962 (Nature, 196, 1080, 1962). When proper precautions were taken to use an exactly circular vessel with a circular plug-hole, to ensure that the water was clean, at a uniform temperature and quite still before the experiment was carried

## Moral priorities on nuclear defence

**From the Bishop of Winchester**  
Sir, I am grateful to Professor John H. Humphrey and others (June 3) for their forthright declaration that the question of Britain's defence policy transcends all other issues in this election and ought to transcend party politics. For as long as it is argued as a choice between several strategic options the more confused and inconclusive that argument will become.

If we were to clarify our moral priorities - what we are ethically obliged to try to achieve above all else - this would limit the strategic options to which we might give the support of our vote. Guidance of any sort, but especially the guidance of God, works by reducing the options.

The churches have already identified the moral priorities far more clearly and consistently than is commonly supposed. The pastoral letter signed by most of the Roman Catholic bishops in the USA in May agrees point by point with the resolutions passed by a large majority in the General Synod of the Church of England in February. If it matters that public opinion in Britain and America should stand shoulder to shoulder, this consensus of the largest church bodies in our two countries must command attention, especially since other churches have recently recorded very similar guidelines.

1. A nation has a moral right and duty to defend its citizens against aggression, by force of arms if necessary, provided the means used are not disproportionate to what is actually required to defend the attack.

2. Any wholesale, indiscriminate attack against non-combatants is an absolute wrong that can never be justified even in retaliation.

This classical Christian teaching is neither recent nor trendy. Frequently disregarded in practice, it has been universally sustained in theory until the 1930s. The decline in which the Western nations have acquiesced since then cannot abrogate the former standard and the churches are merely reaffirming it.

It follows that the only strategic options to which a Christian may in good conscience give the support of a vote are those that will make a wholesale attack from any quarter upon a civilian population in any place totally improbable. But we must stick to that objective and allow no one to substitute another by political sleight of hand.

Some may be convinced that this objective can be achieved by a

unilateral withdrawal of nuclear missiles either possessed by us or deployed in our territory. They will have to show good reasons for believing that this will make it less likely that such attacks will be launched upon civilians anywhere and from any quarter.

By making it our primary objective to render any major attack on a civilian population totally improbable we shall have advanced a sound case for the nuclear deterrent. But if we remain true to the logic of deterrence we must hold fast to the fact that the more automatic and inflexible the boom-rang response, the more it will deter everyone from ever contemplating such a wholesale attack.

But now comes the sleight of hand. Those who argue for flexible response with tactical nuclear warheads have taken as their objective, not the prevention of attacks upon civilian targets, but superiority on the battlefield. That is a very different aim, raising very different moral questions.

Those who favour the theatre nuclear warheads like to claim that they will successfully limit the attack to military targets and so achieve the original objective of avoiding all-out nuclear war. That might be true if no other nuclear weapons existed. But they do. Battlefield superiority could be won through nuclear warheads only by exposing the civilian populations to such a double risk of fall-out and of escalation to more devastating weapons as to make it a morally unacceptable option which brings me to the third guideline on which the churches are agreed.

3. There are no circumstances that would justify the first use of any nuclear warhead of whatever size or style.

At the General Synod of the Church of England, at the bishops' meeting of the Roman Catholic Church in the USA and in other recent Christian assemblies, the churches have done what the politicians are always asking them to do - they have kept clear of tactics and policies and have stuck to spiritual and moral principles. They have spoken simply and with an unusual degree of unity.

Let those who profess to care about right and wrong cast their votes on this overriding issue in the light of these guidelines.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN WINTON,  
Woolsey,  
Winchester.  
June 5

## On remand in London

**From Mr S. P. B. Sheridan**  
Sir, Today at Hendon Magistrates' Court I represented a defendant charged with criminal offences, he having been on remand in custody for several months, awaiting commitment to the crown court, which should occur at the end of June.

Following the usual procedure for custody cases, he appears before the magistrates each week and is then remanded into custody. Normally he would go to a remand prison, probably Brixton, in London. However, because of the shortage of space in prisons, like many others, he is being kept at various police stations, which are ill-equipped to deal with situations such as this. The facilities or, more appropriately, the lack of such vary from station to station.

Did my client reach a trough over the last eight days - having been detained at Highbury Vale police

station, where he shared a small cell for the whole eight-day remand period with a co-defendant, the cell containing an open lavatory with no internal privacy whatsoever and being so hot and devoid of fresh air that they were only their underpants during this time?

My client tells me, and I have no reason to doubt him, that during this last remand period, he and his co-defendant were allowed exercise on only three occasions, two of these for a duration of about five minutes, when they were allowed to walk around the charge room, and only once were they allowed fresh air and that was in the station yard for about 10 minutes.

Surely, these cannot be conditions that a civilised society can tolerate?

Yours faithfully,  
SHANE SHERIDAN,  
4 Brick Court,  
Temple.  
May 31

## Rampant rape

**From Mr Philip Oliver**  
Sir, Re your leader in The Times of May 30, "Rape of the countryside", as you say in your last paragraph the crop is much favoured by the bee and honey bees will at times travel four to five miles to it. Unfortunately, however, the bee suffers from what you call this pestidial mania and sometimes very severely by the forests of doom and disaster from the representatives of some of the chemical giants, anoint the flowering crop with some form of organophosphorus and this in spite of the assertions of eminent agricultural and entomological advisers that it is hardly ever necessary to treat autumn-sown crops of oilseed rape (ie, those in flower now) with insecticides.

Only after visiting fields so treated, where there is neither sight or sound of fly, bee or butterfly, does one realise the damage being done to the environment of which our piles of dead bees are just a symptom.

I understand that many countries in Europe, Sweden, Denmark, France, etc, have very strict controls over the use of insecticides especially on crops in flower. I think we

should try and safeguard our environment by having similar legislation here.

Yours faithfully,  
PHILIP OLIVER,  
Rylands,  
Upton Bishop,  
Ross-on-Wye,  
Herefordshire.  
May 31

**From Dr Robin Andrews**  
Sir, "It (rape) spills over the decent verdure of early summer like a phosphorescent slick" (leader, May 30).

Beauty, Sir, being in the eye of the beholder, there must be many who find, as I do, that the sight of bright yellow patches in the quiltwork of a distant hillside awakens emotions not dissimilar to those described by a certain one of their fellow citizens when confronted with a few clumps of daffodils beside a lake.

Rape, like the daffodil, does not bloom for long, so for the greater part of the year those spoilsports who think that all fields should be green can be assured of having it all their own way.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBIN ANDREWS,  
20 Tower Road,  
Hereford,  
May 30

**Wayward water**  
**From Dr Magnus Pyke**  
Sir, Professor John Laurie (May 30) is mistaken in his belief that his observation of water running clockwise down one plug-hole and anticlockwise down another in his house in Port Moresby implies that the conclusion that the Coriolis forces influence the direction of the vortex in the northern and the southern hemispheres is a myth. He has merely demonstrated that a kitchen sink is an unsatisfactory measuring instrument with which to detect, at 11" south, so subtle a phenomenon.

The classical research on bathwater was done by Professor Ascher Shapiro, head of the department of mechanical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1962 (Nature, 196, 1080, 1962). When proper precautions were taken to use an exactly circular vessel with a circular plug-hole, to ensure that the water was clean, at a uniform temperature and quite still before the experiment was carried

out, the results predicted by theory were obtained.

Professor Laurie may perhaps be forgiven for his scepticism. Others before him have been reluctant to accept that cosmic forces could be affecting so personal an activity as washing up or taking a bath. Two years after Professor Shapiro published his researches, Dr A. M. Binnie, FRSE, repeated the work at the engineering laboratories at Cambridge (J Mech Eng Sci vi, 256, 1964) - using a differently proportioned tank - and obtained the same results, provided he used cleaner water than that provided by the Cambridge town main.

Perhaps predictably, this did not satisfy scientists in Australia until Trefethen, Bilger, Fink and Luxton, at the University of Sydney, showed (Nature, 207, 1084, 1965) that water did go round the other way in their hemisphere.

Yours faithfully,  
MAGNUS PYKE,  
3 St Peter's Villas, W6.  
May 30







# The new Strada II Energy Saver, saving energy fast.



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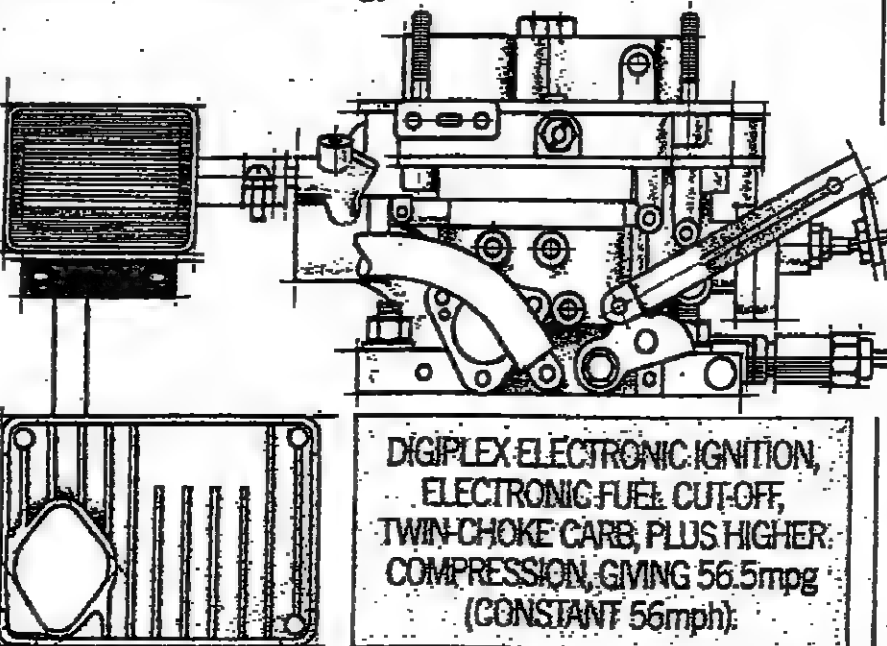
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## THE NEW STRADA II TECHNOLOGY COMES TO LIFE

**FIAT**



## THE ARTS

Ronald Hayman on the prolific Paris stage

## Brook's touching conviction

For Englishmen like me who alternate gauchely between overtyping and underpinning usherettes in Paris, it is a relief to arrive at such theatres as the renovated Théâtre de l'Est and Peter Brook's Bouffes du Nord, where there are no reserved seats and therefore no usherettes. The disadvantage is that Paris audiences tend to arrive early if the show is popular; an hour before the lights were due to go up on Brook's *La Candide* (The Cherry Orchard), nearly all the seats in the centre aisle of the stalls had already been claimed.

His production is very much a family affair, with his wife, Natasha Parry, as Mme Kanevskaya, Irina Brook as Anya and several of the actors from the group which has been working with him in Paris. This is an advantage. The play is more about a group than about individuals, and in this production, although none of the individual performances is outstandingly good, except Guy Tréjan's Gaev and Joseph Blatchley's Trofimov, the group as a whole comes more vividly and movingly to life than it usually does. I have never seen a *Cherry Orchard* in which people touch each other and play jokes on each other more convincingly or more expressively.

The theatrical experience to be had at the Théâtre de l'Est is a strange and exciting one: *La Candide* Eréndira is an adaptation by Miguel Torres of Gabriel García Márquez's 40-page story *The Incredible and Sad Tale of Innocent Eréndira and Her Heartless Grandmother*. Like the story, the

production by the Argentinian director Augustó Boal combines charming simplicity with bizarre ferocity.

The beautiful Marina Vlady, sister of Odile Versois and star of Godard's *Deux ou trois choses que je sais d'elle*, wears flexible padding moulded like a fat female body so that the performance can begin exactly as the story does, with the 14-year-old girl bathing her formidable grandmother, who looks "like a handsome whale ... naked and huge in the marble tub".

When Eréndira accidentally sets fire to the house, the diabolical old woman decides that the child owes her 872,315 pesos, which must be realized through her only asset, her young body. On the circus-like stage, with a busy score of Latin-American music, the production carries us engagingly through a series of adventures involving smugglers, soldiers, nuns, prostitutes, Indians, a magician, a politician and finally a murder, when Ulises, the most romantic of Eréndira's lovers, stabs the almost unkillable old lady. An unpleasant green viscous fluid oozes from Marina Vlady's padding.

Delphine Seyrig and Georges Wilson are still packing the Théâtre de l'Oeuvre with *Sarah et le cri de la langouste*, the play about Sarah Bernhardt by John Murrell. Originally called *Memoir*, it was produced at the Ontario Festival in 1977 and seen briefly in London with Siobhán McKenna as Bernhardt. Another star actress, Marthe Keller, is to be seen with Pierre Arditi in *Andréas*

Voutsinas's production of *Les Exilés* by James Joyce at the Théâtre du Rond Point.

At the Théâtre de la Madeleine a major attempt is being made to restore André Roussin's work to fashion. He had a tremendous international success at the beginning of the Fifties with his 1947 play *The Little Hut*, which Peter Brook directed in London and New York.

In Paris Roussin's 1955 comedy *L'Amour fou* has just opened with a company led by Simone Valère and Jean Desailly. The idiosyncratic comedian Claude Pieplu is having a success at the Théâtre Saint-Georges with his own production of a two-hander called *Six heures au plus tard* by Marc Perrier. The set and the premise for the plot are absurd - a car has crashed through the wall of a cottage, causing no damage to the driver, the bonnet or the man who was asleep in the bed underneath the hole now filled with the protruding car. But the relationship between the driver, a gangster and the eccentric cottage-owner is amusingly developed.

At the Athénée Jean-Claude Drouot is starring in his own production of Dumas's *Keen*, revived in Sartre's adaptation with Sophie Deschamps. At the Comédie Française there is a new Molière double bill consisting of *Amphitryon* and *Le Médecin volant* (*The Flying Doctor*), both directed by Philippe Adrien. Racine's *Andromaque* is being revived with Geneviève Casile in the part.

## Television

## Outrage too easy

Mary Whitehouse recently launched an attack upon Broadside (Channel 4) because it was dealing with a subject which displeased her, that of "video nasties" - cassette films of a violent or obscene nature. The fact this was a restrained and quite unsensational criticism of such films seems to have escaped her notice; but, then, moral outrage is notoriously difficult to employ in a useful manner. The makers of last night's programme concentrated upon the level of violence towards women exhibited by such films: it is clearly and unpleasantly there, but video films of this kind are only the most egregious examples of a tendency which exists in any number of contemporary films: *Octopussy* and *Psycho 2*, for example. It seems illogical, and counter-productive, to ban one and permit the other.

Since the programme was concerned with this problem of censorship, it raised more questions than it was able to solve. If the spectacle of violence is debilitating or damaging, would the censor still allow the depiction of real violence? As one stockist of such films suggested, there is as much gruesome detail in a cassette on the Falklands War as there is in *Driller Killer* or *Dead and Buried*. Is there at work here an atrophied puritanism that finds fiction more reprehensible than fact?

A great deal of emphasis was placed in the programme on the susceptibility of children to such films although, on the evidence of the programme itself, children are a great deal more sophisticated, or at least less gullible, than their putative guardians. One boy, when asked about the violence, described it with faint praise as "special effects". And if, as we saw here, the entire family sit round their television set to watch *Nightmare in a Damaged Brain* do we protect the children from their family's taste?

It may be true that adults and children alike are desensitized by watching sex and violence upon their screens, but to mount an attack upon "video nasties" is to focus upon a symptom rather than the disease itself. We live in a culture filled with images, in which the appetite for violence and aggressive sexuality is being fuelled by much more insidious means. The danger of concentrating upon one specific abuse is that one then accuses in the larger abuses which are being perpetrated daily by film and television; even those sensitive "human interest" documentaries, for example, strike me as instances of human manipulation. Pandora's box has been opened, and it will not be closed by easy or temporary outrage.

Peter Ackroyd

## Concert

## RPO/Weller Festival Hall

There were unusual sonorities in Beethoven's *Leonora* No 3 on Tuesday night. But it was not so much the occasional imprecisions of the horns that caught the ear, nor the sometimes strident on-stage trumpets; rather was it the cello occupying the place of the second bassoon. Presumably an expedient rather than a deliberate experiment, it sounded distinctly odd, since passages which normally offer mere support were given undue prominence, even though the cellist was playing down when exposed. Still, it made a change.

So too did the fresh, exhilarating performance of Bruch's *G minor Violin Concerto*. It was given by the Taiwanese violinist Cho-Liang Lin, who made his debut here in 1981 after winning first prize in the 1978 Queen Sofia International Competition in Madrid. Still only 23, he is gifted with a remarkable technique; and the tone, though not exactly sweet,

is ample and firmly projected. I thought, when he launched into his evenly-paced, somewhat unrhymed cadenza in the sixth bar, that this was going to be an unyielding interpretation, but in fact it broadened out to one of tasteful rubato and romantic, fiery gestures in the two outer movements, with some finely controlled lines and sensitively shaped figuration in the Adagio.

The orchestra offered robust accompaniment, but came into their own in Vaughan Williams's *Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis* and in Beethoven's Fifth Symphony. In the *Fantasia* the strings caught all the ingenuity and opulence of the complex writing. The Beethoven, on the other hand, showed them at their most muscular, with gloriously blazing brass and some good growling double basses in the finale. Mr Weller's was a fairly brisk reading, laughably structured and with the moments of climax prepared with a sure touch.

Geoffrey Norris

## Theatre

## Hawaiian Cheese Party Arts, Cambridge

It goes without saying that, whatever the topics of the century, Footlights revue, there will be no self-congratulatory round-up of the hoary juveniles who have somehow managed to keep the club in business and revitalize comedy at large. But, with accolades flowing thick and fast over the past few weeks, it is surprising to find the heirs of Jack Buchanan and Peter Cook celebrating their anniversary with a show as relaxed and professionally disinterested as this.

Nothing in it has anything to do with any Hawaiian cheese party, and the only discernible line that runs through the show is a keen eye for subjects that have raised a laugh in the past: advertising men, Shakespearean clowns, politically committed folk singers, fox-hunters and crusty old clubland buffers.

In revisiting this familiar territory the company of six have one great strength on their side. They do not dance, and their singing is not up to much, but they do excel in pantomime. Again and again, when a sketch might have died en route to its feeble punchline, it is rescued by the precise physical absurdities that Robert Harley and Neil Mullarkey bring to it as posturing robots or silent comics brutally hauled into the world of speech.

There are some glancing references to the Cambridge post, as in one chunk of mock-medieval featuring a villainous Norman lord of the manor distributing poisoned cheese to all points of the compass. But even here, what counts most is the resistance of a dancing bishop. And in sketches on Bond films and the Arthurian legends the laughs depend mainly on the choreography of Nicholas Symons's production.

Among the company, the strongest personalities are Morwenna Banks, who slips easily up and down the class scale with no loss of context, and Mr Harley, who gets the evening off to a good start with a game of "Hangman" which, to his rage, the audience wins hands down. Some telling points are made at the expense of a pair of CND singers who nearly come to blows. But, as for gags, the only one I shall remember is the telephone call made by a man whose finger got stuck in the dial.

Irving Wardle

## Faust

## Covent Garden

Covent Garden has a habit of running into form during the last part of the season. It did not work that way last year, but this time the old, regular pattern is beginning to re-emerge. After an astutely cast *Roy Giovanni* ten days ago the Royal Opera House has come up with a *Faust* containing the best all-round team of principals heard so far in this production.

At the helm, as when the

opera was last revived, is Alfredo Kraus in the title role. Kraus sheds his years as easily as Faust himself. The only difference between the two is that Kraus does not pay the supreme penalty, he just goes on singing. And what singing it is. The voice is as crystalline now as it was twenty years ago; it is the servant of its master and Kraus, ever the careful master, knows just how much productivity to demand. His handling of the Act III duet "O nuit d'amour" was a model to be studied by anyone who cares for the art of French singing.



Gino Quilico: outstanding debut as Valentin

## Tannhäuser Barbican

The Barbican is not, perhaps, the most auspicious of sites for Venusberg, but, fearless of either the setting or the scale of their undertaking, the Chelsea Opera Orchestra and Chorus set out with *Tannhäuser* on their Wagner centenary pilgrimage on Tuesday night.

There was nothing *against* about this thoroughgoing concert performance, whose only compromise was to adopt, happily, the shorter Dresden version. Venus sat bolt upright in black taffeta and frills, the knightly minstrels stood in tail-coated line, and Tannhäuser and Elisabeth addressed their words of love to the audience alone. To add to the hubris of the enterprise, the work was sung in German so that, despite excellent programme notes and synopsis, the last chances for

total apprehension rather than mere comprehension faded fast. The fact that, with all the odds against it, the evening swung round from failure to qualified success was due in large part to the enthusiasm of the performers and to the conducting of James Judd. Adopting a frenzied approach which in many ways would be totally unacceptable in the pit, Mr Judd saved many an expiring choral line, many a bar of scurrying orchestral ensemble, by the sheer momentum with which he not only built climax upon climax (the end-of-act ensembles were particularly powerful) but kept things at simmering point all the way through.

His characteristic ability to wrap up a true performance from whatever forces he has at hand was matched by the slick professionalism of Connell Byrne's Tannhäuser: a mellifluous, full-bodied natural voice, growing in character later rather

than never, and valuable above all for its ability to find just the right dynamic level within each ensemble.

He was partnered by a pure, carefully integrated soprano in Mary Lloyd-Davies's Elisabeth, who more than anyone filled recitative as well as set-piece with mobile expressive detail. What Ludmilla Andrews's Venus lacked in sensuousness she made up in sheer dramatic energy, a quality shared by David Hillman's Walther von der Vogelweide, Ian Comboy's Landgrave and Stuart Harting's Wolfram were well-balanced and both consistently thoughtful.

The orchestra struggled less often and less obviously than the chorus, and the sheer commitment of the corporate enterprise was every bit as responsible as Mr Judd's tempi for ensuring that the long evening sped on its way.

Hilary Finch

## Dance

## Indeterminate impression

## Ballet Gulbenkian Sadler's Wells

Antonio, the hero of Louis Falco's *Reunion in Portugal*, apparently dies, as the ballet begins, of a heart attack brought on by rich living. The rest of the time is devoted to the dead man's attempts to clear his room, his bed or his dreams of the wife, parents, sister, lover, confessor and sundry other persons who immediately begin to clutter them. Finally they are reconciled.

At least, I think that is probably what was happening although I could not safely identify all the characters from the cast list, nor do I know whether it was meant to be funny. Nobody laughed, any way. The music is by Kurt Weill, from *The Threepenny Opera*.

This was the last work in the opening programme of Ballet Gulbenkian's week at Sadler's

Wells, and the indeterminacy was by then well established. Two of the other works given were by the company's resident choreographer, Vasco Wellenkamp. Both revealed a group of attractive, well trained dancers, odd assorted dancers wearing sleek fleshings and performing very well some extremely vague movements in "atmospheric" (ie. gloomy) lighting.

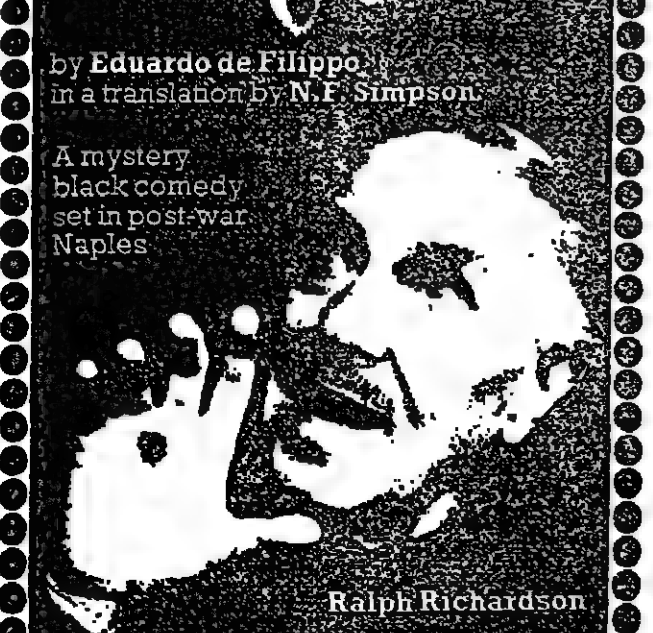
One of Wellenkamp's pieces, *Dances for a Guitar*, celebrates the company's Lisbon home by being set to music by Carlos Paredes, actually for two of those instruments, an ordinary one and a so-called Portuguese guitar. The composer's programme note tells us that it was invented in England two centuries ago but now survives mainly in the *fado* music of Portuguese light entertainment. The score is likeable sweet-sour stuff that would serve nicely to dance to. Oddly, the choreography never once shows the slightest relationship to it that I could discover.

John Percival

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Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones  
Index 8445.45 down 29.85  
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index  
367.04 down 7.21  
New York: Dow Jones Industrial  
Average (latest) 1187.70  
down 7.21

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Dollar  
Index 125.6 up 0.1  
DM 2.5658 up 5pts  
Gold  
\$402.50 up \$1.75  
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Co's, B Elliott, Elswick-Hopper,  
Glossop, GT Global Recovery,  
600 BRP, Valor.  
Economic statistics: Central  
Government transactions  
(incl borrowing requirement),  
provisional figures of vehicle  
production (May).

POUND ABROAD

	Bank Rate	Bank Rate
Australia \$	1.57	1.79
Austria Sch	25.65	28.00
Belgium Fr	83.75	79.25
Canada \$	2.00	1.92
Denmark Kr	16.87	14.32
Finland Mk	9.14	8.64
France Fr	12.53	12.00
Germany DM	4.21	4.00
Greece Dr	136.50	128.50
Hongkong \$	12.25	11.60
Ireland P	1.32	1.26
Italy Lira	2485.00	2365.00
Japan Yen	400.00	380.00
Netherlands Gld	4.71	4.48
Norway Kr	11.90	11.50
Portugal Esc	169.00	155.00
South Africa Rd	2.15	2.00
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Sweden Kr	12.43	11.90
Switzerland Fr	3.48	3.31
USA \$	1.63	1.57
Venezuela Ddr	140.00	132.00

NOTEBOOK

Britain's financial markets have been buoyant in anticipation of a Conservative victory at the polls. Will the prospect of lower inflation and interest rates keep the pound, shares and Government stocks booming or will it all prove a three week wonder?

Investors Notebook page 23:  
● Biotechnology is back in favour in North America, where leading shares have more than doubled in 12 months. Here in Britain, there are growing signs of interest but the Government is having to bend its philosophy and take a hand to get things moving. Clive Cookson reports.

Feature page 22:  
● Right up to the Williamsburg summit, EEC countries have been raising protectionist barriers, so that a Common Automobile Policy, followed by a Common Industry Policy could creep up by stealth. Graham Seargeant argues that this will be a boon for Britain's interests.

Economic Notebook page 22:  
● DECLINED: Safeway, the US supermarket group, yesterday declined to make what would have been the seventh offer for Key Markets stores chain.

Directors of parent company Fitch Lovell are recommending shareholders to approve the sale of Linford.

WALL STREET  
Dow slips in heavy trading

New York (AP-Dow Jones)-Stocks recovered from early lows in heavy trading yesterday. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell three points to 1,191. The initial fall in stocks trimmed the index by nearly eight points before settling in. But declines still lead gainers by more than ten-to-three. Volume was about 28 million shares.

General Electric fell 1/2 to 55; General Motors fell 1/2 to 68 1/2; Merck fell 1/2 to 83 1/2; American Telephone and Telegraph fell 1/2 to 63 1/2; Eastman Kodak fell 1/2 to 72 1/2; Val rose 1/2 to 37 1/2; Plessey rose 1/2 to 2 1/2 to 11 1/2; Union Carbide fell 1/2 to 67 1/2; and Southern Pacific fell 1/2 to 68 1/2.

International Business Machines at 113 1/2 was up 1/2; Commodore International at 110 1/2 was up 3/4; Teledyne at 161 was up 2 1/2; Texas Instruments at 165 1/2 was down 1/2; Colson at 56 was up 1/2; Sanders Associates at 100 was off 1/2; Cincinnati Milacron at 35 1/2 was down 1/2; and Lockheed at 117 was up 1/2.

Cashmen Industries fell 2 1/2 to 56. Yesterday it gained 2 1/2 after trading as high as 59 1/2, and the company attributed the rise to a favourable recommendation.

Mr Larry Wachtel, first vice president-research at Prudential-Bache Securities, said: "Today's opening drop was pre-ordained by yesterday's close."

"Now it's a question of whether the 1,180 support level holds or if we'll see a further drop that would mean a full correction."

"The Bond market has tightened ahead of the Fed" he said. But a "looming and bigger problem is the beginning of a second crisis wave in the international debt picture."

Recovery hopes at Unctad

From Deisa Trevisan  
Belgrade

M. Jacques de Larosiere, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, yesterday introduced an optimistic note at the plenary session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, when he said that the world economy was now at the threshold of recovery.

He reminded all the participants that the essential thing for them was to see that the initial gains were not frittered away in a new wave of inflation.

Firm and resolute adherence to the strategy designed to foster non-inflationary recovery was necessary and the only approach to revitalize the economy was to get the growth and development going again, he said.

Earlier, Mr Roy Williams, under secretary in the Department of Trade, injected a new idea into the proceedings largely devoted to aid to the developing world by putting the emphasis on private investments. He urged the conference to pay due attention to creating an atmosphere which would encourage private investors.

Mr Williams said that Britain was making efforts to encourage private companies investing in the Third World but this also required effort of developing countries to provide a climate in which foreign investors could have confidence.

On the question of the division between the industrialized nations and the Third World, the Western view at the conference is that the existing international institutions are capable of overseeing the present crisis and dealing with the problems besetting the developing world. The Soviet bloc has not shown to be particularly involved in the search for concrete solutions.

● Brazilian ministers are still debating the conditions on which they should accept assistance from the International Monetary Fund. Announcement of the terms, which are expected to include cuts in subsidies, some price increases, and de-indexing wages, has been delayed.

Managements to meet after £660m takeover victory  
BTR attacks insurance groups for backing Tilling board

By Our Financial Staff

Sir Patrick Meaney, Thomas Tilling's chief executive, will meet his bankers this morning to decide whether to recommend the £660m takeover bid from BTR, which went unconditional yesterday afternoon.

Later today, he will talk to Mr David Nicholson, BTR chairman, and Mr Owen Green, its chief executive. It will be the first meeting of the two managements since BTR launched Britain's biggest takeover.



Losers Meaney: prophetic message

To the manor born

If "manors" maketh the man, then they certainly say a lot about the stylish last of Sir Patrick Meaney, Crewe House, in Curzon Street, the stately 18th century home from which he has run Tilling's for the past decade is such a joy to him that it always figures on the covers of his annual reports.

He joined Tilling in 1961, became managing director, and is also a director of Cable & Wireless, Rank and Midland Bank.

Cornhill 'not for sale'

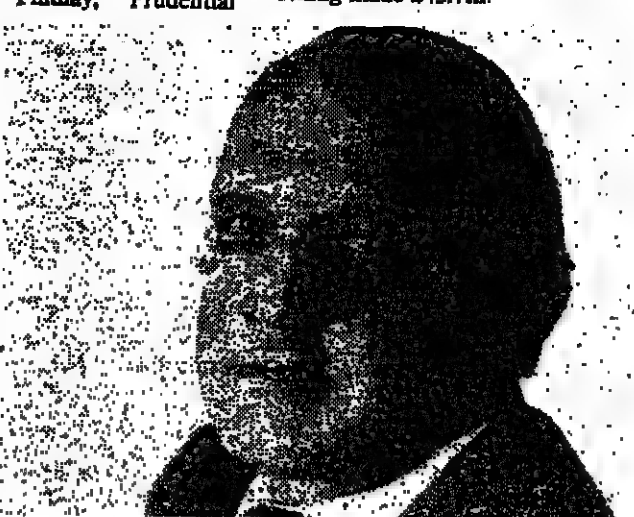
Cornhill Insurance, which Thomas Tilling had said it would sell for at least £150m, will not be disposed of, BTR said, shortly after gaining control of Tilling.

Allianz Versicherungs, the German insurance group, had earlier in the day said that it was interested in buying Cornhill. Tilling had indicated that the Munich-based group was one of four front runners being considered as a possible purchaser for Cornhill.

However, a spokesman for Allianz denied comments attributed to the company's finance director, Herr Marcus Blerich, that it would sell its 29 per cent stake in Eagle Star.

"His comments have been misinterpreted," the company said. "We have no present intention of selling our stake in Eagle Star. The purchase of Cornhill is still only a possibility."

Market sources said that BTR may at a later date carry through Tilling's plan to sell off Cornhill despite yesterday's announcement.



Winner Green: hard-driving Spartan at the top

Silvertown House faces the world from Vincent Square, London, SW1, with 14 windows that are boringly-square and six white columns at the front - whose main designed feature might be described as "late 1960s prop-up-ability".

In short, nothing glints from Silvertown - not even the management style of Mr Owen Green, the BTR chief executive. Although people describe him as a "hard-driving man", that tends to be the description of those who have recently watched him from close by.

His headquarters staff appear to be almost as spartan as the outward appearance of their accommodation: just 70 of them control 25,000 employees.

In an untypically reflective moment the man who trained as an accountant did allow himself: "Growth is the goal, profit is the measure, security is the result."

P & O will answer Trafalgar queries

Shareholders in P & O have been promised answers at today's annual meeting to a series of questions about the group's performance contained in a letter from Mr Nigel Brookes, chairman of Trafalgar House, to Lord Inchcape, chairman of P & O.

Trafalgar has bid about £290m for P & O, which is being, bitterly resisted. Lord Inchcape will today devote most of his speech to countering Trafalgar's questions. But he will not give a profits forecast or asset valuation.

A formal defence document will be despatched after the meeting, but profit forecasts and asset values will be held back in the expectation that Trafalgar will raise its bid.

Mr Oliver Brooks, P & O's managing director said: We will be dealing with them tomorrow, but I do not think he will get the answers he wants."

Mr Brookes warns Lord Inchcape in the letter that advertisements in today's press suggest P & O shareholders should ask certain questions at the meeting.

These questions include: Why are P & O's profits lower now than they were 10 years ago when Trafalgar's have tripled in the same period? What profits is P & O forecasting this year? And why has P & O's return on shareholders funds been under 9 per cent when Trafalgar's has been over 30 per cent for the last ten years?

Why has P & O found it necessary to dip into reserves in three years out of the last ten to pay dividends when Trafalgar has always paid them out of current profits?

Shareholders should also ask why they should continue to invest in a company which has provided nothing but "decline and disappointment," says Mr Brookes.

Trafalgar has also pointed out that more of its ships were involved in the Falklands conflict than those of P & O and that its record on British registration of ships compares well with that of P & O.

Lonrho puts pressure on Fraser

By Our Financial Staff

Lonrho last night threatened to create thousands of new shareholders in House of Fraser by breaking up its 30 per cent stake in that company into small parcels.

The company was reacting to a claim made on Tuesday by House of Fraser that the plan to demerge Harrods would require a "majority vote" of shareholders.

The Fraser board plainly felt that the thousands of small shareholders in the company would back the board, making it impossible for Lonrho to get this majority, although Lonrho might be able to command more than 50 per cent of the share.

Lonrho's threat would be difficult but not impossible to implement. City sources said last night. But they felt that the simple fact that Lonrho might be prepared to go to this length would be enough to dissuade the Fraser board from pressing for a head count.

Election hopes lift shares to record

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

Shares hit a record high yesterday as overseas investors scrambled to buy stocks ahead of today's poll, in the confident expectation that a Conservative victory would give a further boost to the equity market. The FT index of 30 leading companies rose 4.4 to 714.7.

But sterling and gilts had a lack-lustre day as the markets awaited the election results. After opening higher the pound eased just 20 points against a stronger dollar to \$1.57, gaining 0.1 on its trade-weighted index to 86.9.

Fears that United States interest rates may be on their way up after a run of poor money supply figures continued to overshadow the financial markets, and these were only partly balanced by the state-ment from the Paris meeting of Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' ministers that its pricing pact was holding and the oil production ceiling would be maintained at present levels.

The majority view in the City remains that sterling is likely to strengthen further after the election, despite profit-taking, and that this is likely to precipitate a cut in interest rates, especially since building societies' mortgage rates will otherwise have to rise.

But a significant minority believe that sterling has already discounted a Conservative victory, while gilts may be hit more aggressively funding to rein back rapid monetary growth, as well as by any increase in interest rates across the Atlantic.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Industry Secretary, who is tipped as a possible Chancellor in a new Conservative government, said yesterday that any rise in sterling after the election was likely to be small.

On Tuesday Mr Jenkin was reported as saying that interest rates could be used to bring a surge in the pound to more realistic levels. But this was not a prediction, he claimed yesterday.

Hill Samuel doubles staff profit-sharing

By Our Banking Correspondent

Hill Samuel has more than doubled to £7.6m the sum set aside for staff profit-sharing on the back of another big rise in profits.

The merchant banking and financial services group, which has moved ahead rapidly in the past three years after a stagnant period in the 1970s, raised disclosed after tax profits by 26 per cent to £20.1m. Before profit-sharing the increase was 40 per cent to £27.7m.

The large slice for profit-sharing - of which £3m is payable on annual schemes and the rest provisions for long term schemes - reflects the strong incentive based pay approach introduced by Mr Christopher Castleman, chief executive, who has overseen Hill Samuel's revival.

His salary rise last year in line with inflation was swelled by profit sharing to a 48 per cent rise to £126,000.

Hill Samuel  
Year to 31.3.83  
After tax profit £20.1m (£15.99m)  
Stated earnings £29.95 (£23.33)  
Net final dividend 8.3p, making 9.1p (8.0p)  
Share price 227p, down 3p  
Yield 5.7%  
Dividend payable 18.78p

The group has pushed up dividends by 14 per cent to 9.1p net. Merchant banking provided the main impetus behind the rise in group profits, contributing £16.1m, up from £12.5m.

Eurobond activities have finally made a group profit, and United Kingdom corporate finance had a good year, as did the treasury side. Commercial banking also did better despite much higher provisions.

Insurance broking, for long a loss-maker, swung back to profits of £820,000, compared with the previous year's £628,000 loss.

Hill Samuel Group

Disclosed profit after taxation		
Year ended 31st March	1983	1982
	£000	£000
Merchant banking	16,112	12,501
Life and investment management	3,624	2,831
Employee benefit services	2,065	2,068
Insurance broking	820	(628)
Shipping services	1,812	2,491
Underwriting agencies	303	369
	24,736	19,632
Central costs including interest	(4,630)	(3,641)
Profit after taxation but before extraordinary items	20,106	15,991
Disclosed earnings per share		
	1983	1982
Actual	28.96p	23.33p
Diluted	28.67p	23.24p
Extraordinary items	458	236
Profit after taxation and extraordinary items	20,564	16,227

The results shown above summarise the unaudited audited accounts which have been delivered to the Registrar of Companies.

Copies of the Report and Accounts containing the Chairman's Statement in full can be obtained from the Secretary.

Hill Samuel Group Plc  
100 Wood Street  
London EC2P 2AJ



City Comment  
A healthy queue in the City

Perhaps the most encouraging feature of the present stock market boom is that companies are taking the opportunity to raise large amounts of cash by rights issues. Indeed, the normal rights issue queue maintained informally by the Bank of England is now pretty full for three months. London & Northern has cited this as one of the main reasons for completing what might have been a controversial deal to buy the majority stake in United Medical Enterprises from the British Technology Group just two days before the election. If it had delayed completion it might have had to go right to the back of the queue again.

In past booms, companies have been too nervous of offending influential stockbrokers' analysts who might downgrade their company's status because a substantial share issue dilutes net profit per share.

Ironically, there was a rights issue boom in 1975, when company liquidity was at crisis point and stock market prices were just recovering from their worst pasting in postwar history. This broke the mould of analysts' thinking, even though it was a poor time to raise money.

Today, the situation is quite different. Company liquidity is in good shape after the shake-outs of the past four years. So groups like GKN, Laporte and London & Northern are raising money for genuine expansion, either in advance of the need for more working capital as business turns up or, for acquisitions.

Today, the main problem is the capacity of the big city institutions to underwrite so much new equity capital. They are mainly stretched because of the succession of massive takeover bids culminating in UDS and Thomas Tilling.

Institutions were naturally nervous of filling their books too full during the uncertainty of an election. It was notable that Trafalgar House made its first bid for P & O without a cash alternative that would need underwriting, though there were other reasons for this.

Today's election will likely remove most of these doubts. But if Mrs Thatcher is returned, there will be another batch of privatisation issues for the underwriters to absorb.



## APPOINTMENTS

## New post for Plessey chairman

Sir John Clark, chairman of The Plessey Company, has joined the board of Plessey Telecommunications & Office Systems (PTOSL) and succeeds Mr P. I. Marshall as chairman of PTOSL. Mr Marshall, a deputy chief executive and the finance director of Plessey, remains on the PTOSL board and joins the board of Plessey Electronics Systems.

Mr W. J. Dalziel, a deputy chief executive of Plessey, is appointed to the boards of Plessey Telecommunications & Office Systems and Plessey North America Corporation.

Sir Peter Baldwin has joined the board of Mitchell Cotts.

Mr I. A. H. McPhie has been appointed group chief accountant of Babcock International.

Mr Barry E. Sealey becomes a director of Scottish Equitable Life Assurance Society. He is managing director of Christian Salvage and also chairman of Salvage International. Mr Roderick MacLeod has resigned his directorship of Scottish Equitable to take up the post of chairman of Lloyds Register of Shipping.

Mr John E. Hillier will be appointed as group treasurer of Ocean Transport & Trading as from July 1, 1983. Mr Hillier succeeds Mr B. A. St John who is leaving the group.

Mr G. R. Kellert and Mr D. J. Warburton become general managers of Royal Insurance.

Mr G. W. O'Donovan, general manager of HP Information, is now managing director of HP Information.

Mr David Pelham has been appointed a partner of Pentagram Design.

Mr M. A. Pearlman becomes a director of Lesser Design and Build.

Mr James Mason has been elected chairman of the Co-operative Union.

Mr Bryan Pope is now a non-executive director of Medminster.

Mr Peter F. H. Towle has been appointed managing director and Mr Roger S. W. H. Wiggs is the new deputy managing director of Security Services.

Mr Keith Barracough and Mr Howard Briggs become general managers (finance) of Leeds Permanent.

Mr James F. Shaw is now a non-executive director of Mollare Holdings.

## Government follows US lead with £16m investment, Clive Cookson reports

## Biotechnology begins to flower

Biotechnology in Britain is moving into a phase of renewed activity and industrial interest, after a quiet and rather gloomy year when all the action seemed to be on the other side of the Atlantic.

The natural tendency of the psychological pendulum to swing from depression to excitement makes it easy to exaggerate the strength of the revival. Certainly there are hopeful signs but the financial and industrial climate is still not hospitable enough here to support the blossoming of British biotechnology in the American style.

The Government's attitude is one positive factor. It is trying to create a warm atmosphere without stifling developments by too much attention and regulation.

Dr Ron Coleman, the Government Chemist, who has special responsibility for biotechnology within the Department of Industry, has recruited three senior industrialists (from ICI, BP and Glaxo) to spend two years working full time in his biotechnology unit. With an initial budget of £16m and powers to take a wide range of initiatives, the unit has had a warm reception in British industry.

More than 1,300 British firms have come to the Department of Industry for biotechnology information and support, and many are being helped to commission strategic and feasibility studies. That shows an encouraging industrial awareness of the opportunities and it would be extremely disappointing if a number of successful projects do not grow out of it.

The willingness of firms to cooperate with one another and with university labs has also pleased the Government. Britain already boasts at least 20 academic industrial cooperative ventures in biotechnology and several more are at advanced stages of planning.

For example, an important programme of strategic research at University College, London, the Polytechnic of Central London and the University of Kent, with substantial financial backing from several firms and from the Department of Industry, will be launched very soon.

The Biotechnology Research Council, which has been set up to coordinate research in biotechnology, will be launched very soon.

Mr Keith Barracough and Mr Howard Briggs become general managers (finance) of Leeds Permanent.

Mr James F. Shaw is now a non-executive director of Mollare Holdings.

Nature index of biotechnology stocks				
12-Month high	12-Month low	Company	Close	27 May
90 1/4	45 1/4	A. B. Fortia (Sweden)	82	82
23 1/4	16 1/4	Biogen (USA)	16 1/4	16 1/4
6	3	Bio-Logica (Canada)	4 1/4	4 1/4
13	7 1/4	Bio-Response (USA)	10 1/4	10 1/4
14 1/4	11 1/4	Cetus (USA)	16 1/4	16 1/4
39 1/4	15	Collaborative Research (USA)	9 1/4	9 1/4
41	24 1/4	Damon (USA)	37 1/4	37 1/4
18 1/4	10 1/4	Enzo-Biochem (USA)	39 1/4	39 1/4
46 1/4	26 1/4	Flow General (USA)	13 1/4	13 1/4
13 1/4	8 1/4	Genentech (USA)	42 1/4	42 1/4
19 1/4	12 1/4	Genex Systems (USA)	12 1/4	12 1/4
27 1/4	16 1/4	Genex (USA)	18 1/4	18 1/4
22 1/4	13 1/4	Hybritech (USA)	26 1/4	26 1/4
22 1/4	13 1/4	Molecular Genetics (USA)	22 1/4	22 1/4
65 1/4	42	Monoclonal Antibodies (USA)	19 1/4	19 1/4
		Novo Industri A/S (Den)	60 1/4	60 1/4

The index is compiled for Nature on the last Friday of every month by E. F. Hutton, Inc. It shows that biotechnology stocks have outperformed the general but market on Wall Street over the past year, as the companies have recovered from the loss of confidence that affected the sector a year ago.

But the most important new venture scheduled to start in Britain is the provisionally named Agricultural Genetics Company (AGC), to which the British Technology Group, Ultramar and Advent Capital have pledged £5m each. More than 18 months have passed since the BTG and the Agricultural Research Council began discussions with potential backers to establish this "country cousin" of Celtech, the original state-backed biotechnology company.

Although the birth of the AGC really does seem imminent now, after several false alarms, the delay shows some of the less favourable aspects of the British climate for biotechnology.

First, the Government and BTG found great difficulty in attracting promises of investment from private industry. Then they had several rebuffs from the people approached to become chief executives — compared to the United States this country is pathetically short of industrialists with the scientific credentials and entrepreneurial spirit to lead a venture like this. The bureaucrats are apparently still engaged in protracted negotiations over the

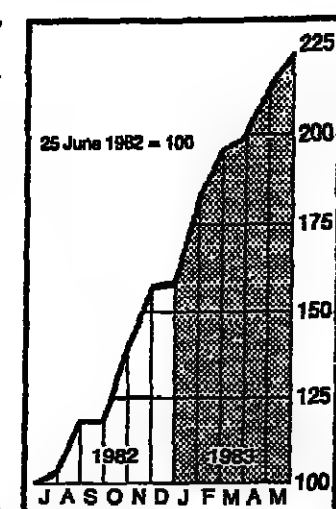
precise terms under which AGC would exploit the fruits of research funded by the ARC.

The right of first refusal to take up ARC research results could be an immensely powerful resource for a company engaged in the genetic engineering of plants, just as Celtech's strongest resource is its right to pick up the most promising work financed by the MRC.

The government's willingness to adopt such an exclusive arrangement clearly contradicts the Conservative ideological preference for publicly funded scientists to take their discoveries to the open market. With good reason, ministers do not trust private industry to make full use of the country's biotechnology research.

It is still much too early to judge whether Celtech's results have justified its privileged relations with the MRC. While the 130-member research and development team in Slough has already established an excellent technical reputation, the company's commercial expertise has not been tested properly yet.

Celtech's most recent financial results, covering the year to 30 September, 1982, showed operating revenues of £384,000 and a net deficit of £1.9m. The British Technology Group and its three private sector partners, which launched Celtech with a £1.5m investment in 1980, expect the venture to run at a loss for the first few years as it becomes established. No one has issued any official forecasts.



but revenues of £1m this year, and an overall profit by 1985 or 1986, would be a reasonable expectation.

The first Celtech products on the market are so-called monoclonal antibodies — pure antibodies which latch on to one specific antigen. They are made by the technique of cell hybridization discovered in 1976 by Dr Cesar Milstein at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge.

The trick is to fuse an antibody-producing cell with a tumour cell; the hybrid multiplies rapidly like a cancer cell and its descendants continue to make the same antibody.

Unfortunately, no one at the MRC recognized the immense commercial value of monoclonal antibodies in time to patent the discovery, so scores of American biotechnology companies are gleefully exploiting it too. But Celtech believes that it can call on more scientific expertise in cell hybridization, within its own laboratories and the MRC establishments, than the competition.

Celtech's biggest-selling antibody to far is anti-interferon. This is bought by other biotechnology companies to measure and purify interferon.

Celltech's commercial expertise is untested

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## Economic notebook

## Hypocrisy and the other CAP

Just three days before the Williamsburg summit, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders agreed another extension of its "prudent marketing" agreement with Japan's motor industry.

Naturally, it has nothing to do with government. Nor are there too many figures on paper, just in case the EEC competition director becomes emotional about this otherwise flagrant cartel deal to impose a quota below 11 per cent.

It is convenient for the competition director to use the SMMT's sensitive subtleties as a reason for turning a blind eye. Everyone else is doing it.

Italy has a 20-year-old deal, dating from the days when Japan was more afraid of Fiat than Italy was of Toyota and Daihatsu. And France has its own strong-arm methods of keeping Japanese imports below 3 per cent.

In the past two years, as a recent study of creeping protectionism shows, every other EEC industrial country has forced Japan into "voluntary export restraints" on cars.

What this amounts to is one arm of a suggested Common Agricultural Policy, with state aid to BL, Renault and Alfa Romeo providing a bone structure for the other.

Considering the fine words on offer at Williamsburg about protecting free trade — the common tariff on cars is still falling — the hypocrisy is breathtaking.

But there is no doubt that such restraints are politically popular. They are also good for jobs in the short-term, especially if Japanese producers can be tempted into setting up EEC plants.

The Institute of Directors has rightly launched a drive to push the free trade competition ideals of the EEC, both internally and in trade with third countries, as an alternative to Mrs Thatcher's essentially negative approach.

Yet, ironically, the market is actually moving. Labour's way, not just by individual national efforts, but from Brussels as well.

The recent multi-product deal with Japan is one example. Perhaps more significant is Brussels' construction of a steel cartel backed by minimum prices and by "voluntary" quotas with the

European Free Trade Association, Eastern Europe and countries as diverse as Australia and South Korea.

Such deals create monopoly conditions within the market and also export monopoly to other free enterprise countries round the world, since their producers have to share quotas.

The trend is self-perpetuating. If European manufacturers pay higher steel prices, or cannot buy the best machine tools, their costs will rise so that they need support, like shipbuilders, or more protection. Thus the EEC, will progressively move to a de facto Common Industry Policy.

In the short term, restraining on imports of consumer goods do not appear to have the same damaging effects. Taxpayers may think it reasonable to pay more, or restrict their choice for the sake of their own or fellow countrymen's jobs.

But the example of farming may not apply so well to manufacturing. Hongkong's textile producers and Japan's motor companies are not just sitting back weeping over their reduced quotas. Managed trade reduces uncertainty. Quotas measured in volume also give them the opportunity to export higher value goods.

Hongkong producers, as a long-term policy, are now selling on quality rather than price like our healthier companies.

Japan's car groups are leaving bottom-of-the-range models to loss making BL or trans-European multinationals and trying to fill their quotas with advanced higher range models at profit margins scarcely restrained by the normal need to compete.

Hence, the effect of protection will be to damage the high-quality vehicle business to which Britain, with its long traditions and reputation, should have looked to evolve a stable and profitable British industry.

Taking the New Protectionism seriously by Brian Hindley and Eri Nicolaidis. Trade Policy Research Centre £3.

Graham Searjeant

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## Westland doubles earnings

By John Lawless

Even the arrival of three rival Bristol helicopters yesterday could not dampen the spirits of Sir David Arlington, the Westland chairman.

The helicopters ferried the press corps to the Isle of Wight base of British Hovercraft for a visit by Mrs Thatcher as she reported almost double post tax group profits. They were up to £9.02m from £4.84m at the same time last year.

The Tory leader's party, Lord Arlington could have argued, should have arrived on a British hovercraft - for his report said that the initial API-88 hovercraft started schedule service with Hovertravel on the Solent on March 8.

The hovercraft division, however, made a small operating loss of £18,000 on sales this year of £4.86m, but only because orders have been delivered, while development costs continue.

Its main business, however, made an £11m operating profit on 1983 helicopter sales of £111m, against £2.4m on £71.5m last time.

Orders for Lynx and Sea-King helicopters from the Ministry of Defence have been better than promised last July, while the commitments of the British and Italian Governments to the EH101 programme "seems no longer in doubt".

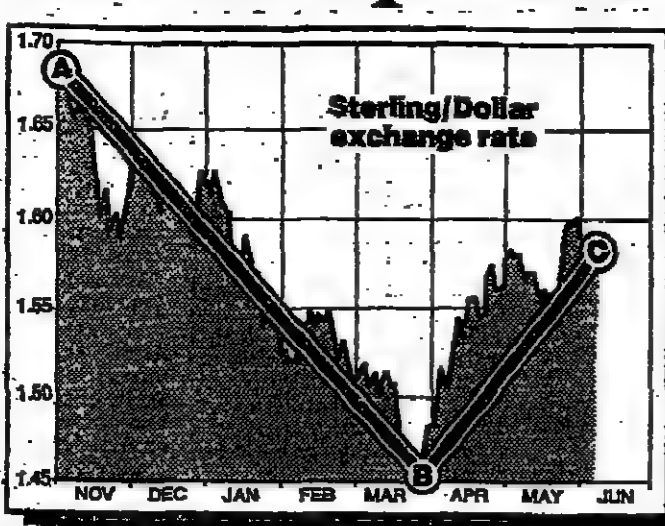
There will, however, probably be another six months before the red tape of both countries releases full development funds.

Lord Arlington added: "While the group's net cash position has recently been fluctuating between credit and overdraft, we foresee an increase in business, some of it with conditions of payment different from the past, which will require increased borrowing, part of it hard-core and on a long-term basis."

Thus, Westland expects to issue floating stock secured by a floating charge, and steps are being taken to convert the existing 7.75 per cent unsecured loan stock into a 7.75 per cent debenture for the same term.

## INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK • edited by Sandy McLachlan

# Pound set on upward course



When Mrs Thatcher submitted to the test of the election four years ago, on May 3, 1979, the pound's average value on the currency basket index was, at \$6.3, within 1 percentage point of its value today.

For 20 months it did not look back, soaring by 20 per cent before plunging to its low in March, only to rebound in the last couple of months to present levels.

Does one remarkable coincidence herald another? There are those in the City who predict that within a few weeks of today's expected Conservative election victory sterling will be topping \$1.60 as investors, especially those overseas, pile into Government stocks.

They argue that not only will the pound survive profit-taking immediately after the victory is confirmed, but will gain new strength as more cautious investors, unwilling to commit funds before the result was known, decide to plump for gilts.

Sterling certainly has a lot going for it. Interest rates are high by European standards, oil prices have firmed and the risk of substantial weakening has receded, while Mrs Thatcher's commitment to "firm" money policies to curb inflation inspires confidence, especially abroad.

Gilts, too, are generally expected to make further gains after the election, despite fears

in some quarters that the Government plans to tighten policies to dampen excessive monetary growth and public spending. These fears can probably be discounted.

The strength of sterling means that interest rates are much more likely to come down than go up.

At the same time, the continuing competitive squeeze on companies exerted by the high pound will maintain the downward pressure on inflation. The prospect of lower interest rates combined with lower inflation in the longer run must be good for gilts.

Several brokers are predicting cuts in bank base rates of between 1 to 2 percentage points over the summer, in the confident expectation that the pound will remain buoyant.

The future course of United States interest rates remains a cloud on the horizon for both sterling and gilts. But the general feeling is that the US authorities will not wish to see any significant rise in rates, which would dampen recovery at home.

A Conservative victory is therefore bound to make sterling stronger, and the higher the margin of seats achieved by Mrs Thatcher the better the pound is likely to perform against both the dollar and the basket of currencies which produces the weighted average.

That will therefore be good

for gilts and, initially perhaps for equities. There are however question marks that should be raised on a longer term appreciation.

The data stream chart shows the sterling/dollar movement over the last seven months, indicating sterling's 14.8 per cent fall between November and the end of March (A to B on the trend line) and the subsequent 8.5 per cent recovery (B to C) since.

It is interesting to note the share sector movements during these contrasting periods. While the pound was falling, the *Financial Times* 500 share index rose by 8.13 per cent. However, the overall trend in the British equity market was firm throughout.

While sterling was falling, no less than 14 sectors of the *Financial Times* Actuaries Index registered gains of more than 15 per cent. Newspapers and publishers headed the list with a near 30 per cent increase, as they discount miscellaneous financial stocks, which managed an improvement of more than 30 per cent.

Over relatively short periods such analyses are bound to be coloured by high leading company results in individual sectors. But the fairly inevitable conclusion is that the equity market is going to become relatively less attractive particularly since it is already discounting so much.

Amec  
Year to 31.12.82.  
Pretax profit, £17.8m (£13.4m).  
Stated earnings, 26.4p (£21.8p).  
Turnover, £253.5m (£245.8m).  
Net dividend, 9.0p (£5.5p).

Buimer & Lamb (Holdings)  
Year to 30.3.83.  
Pretax profit, £15,000 (£57,000).  
Stated earnings, 2.04p (£5.4p).  
Turnover, £29.62m (£27.38m).  
Net dividend, 3.82p (£3.2p).

James Burroughs  
Year to 28.2.83.  
Pretax profit, £5,056m (£3,522m).  
Stated earnings, 18.1p (£13.7p).  
Turnover, £46.1m (£38.57m).  
Net dividend, 8.0p (£7.7p).

### COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

Henry Wigfall and Son, the Sheffield-based electrical retail and rental chain, achieved a big reduction in losses in the year to March 28, 1983.

Turnover slipped to £40.58m, against £42.41m in 1981-82, which reflects the reorganization and rationalization of outlets during the period. Trading profits totalled £1,077m, and after allowing for reorganization costs of £721,000, as well as interest charges cut from £234m to £132m, the net loss, before tax, has been reduced to £277,000, compared with last year's deficit of £3,722m. But, for the second year running, there is no ordinary dividend.

Wigfall's board notes that the year's results are very much in line with the expectations expressed at the half-way stage. The reorganization carried out during the year is responsible for a substantial proportion of the improvement and this programme is continuing in the current year.

T R North America Investment Trust  
Year to 31.3.83.  
Total income, £2,922m (£2,222m).  
Stated earnings, 3.91p (£3.35p).  
Net dividend, 3.25p (£3.125p).

City of Dublin Bank (Figures in Irish currency)  
Half-year to 31.3.83.  
Pretax profit, £547,000 (£421,000).

### COMMODITIES

#### LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Prices in pounds per tonne net weight  
Silver in ounces per troy ounce

Year's Close

High grade

Copper

Three months

Three months

Three months

Three months

Three months

Three months

Three months

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### NOTICE OF REDEMPTION

To the Holders of

## Government of New Zealand

Twenty Year 5% Bonds due July 1, 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of the Bonds of the above-described issue, Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, as Fiscal Agent, has drawn by let for redemption on July 1, 1983 at 100% of the principal amount thereof through operation of the Sinking Fund, \$1,028,000 principal amount of said Twenty Year 5% Bonds due July 1, 1985 bearing the following distinctive numbers:

OUTSTANDING COUPON BONDS OF \$1,000 EACH BEARING NUMBERS ENDING IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING TWO DIGITS:

ALSO COUPON BONDS OF \$1,000 EACH BEARING THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS:

Number	Principal Amount to be Redeemed	Number	Principal Amount to be Redeemed
8881	\$100,000	8103	\$100,000
8882	\$100,000	8104	\$100,000
8883	\$100,000	8105	\$100,000

On July 1, 1983, the Bonds, or portions thereof, designated above will become due and payable at the principal amount thereof in such coin or currency of the United States of America as is legal tender for the payment thereof of public and private debts, and will be paid upon surrender thereof at the corporate trust office of Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, 50 West Broadway, New York, New York 10013, or at the option of the bearer or registered holder but subject to any laws and regulations applicable thereto to the country of any of the following offices: at the offices of Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York in Antwerp, Brussels, Frankfurt, London or Paris, or at the office of Baring Brothers & Co. Limited in London.

Coupon Bonds surrendered for redemption should have attached all unexpired coupons appurtenant thereto. Coupons due July 1, 1983 should be detached and collected in the usual manner. Upon surrender of a fully registered Bond for partial redemption, there will be issued a new coupon Bond or Bonds or fully registered Bond or Bonds for the unredeemed portion of such fully registered Bond surrendered.

From and after July 1, 1983 interest shall cease to accrue on the Bonds, or portions thereof, herein designated for redemption.

JUNE 1, 1983

GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND

## Japan Air Lines have a first class opportunity for a sleeping partner.



When you travel First Class on Japan Air Lines you can lie back and relax.

Our unique Sky Recliner Seat, with its sumptuous padding from head to toe, reclines to a full 60° for a really restful sleep.

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Complimentary drinks with a superb choice of international menus.

And first class hospitality with all the care and attention to detail that have given Japan Air Lines its worldwide reputation for excellence.

Combine that with our daily flights from Heathrow to Tokyo and you combine the best of all possible worlds.

For more details, contact your local travel agent.

The longer the flight, the more the details matter.

JAPAN AIR LINES

### Walter Bull sells assets

Northern Goldsmiths has agreed to buy the leasehold interest in Ship Street, Brighton, together with the jeweller's business carried on there by Walter Bull and Son (Bishopsgate).

The assets, bought for £100,000 cash, are the leasehold interest in the premises, the goodwill of the jeweller's business and the fixtures, fittings and trade equipment.

Northern Goldsmiths has also bought the right to use the name Walter Bull at the firm's shops at Ship Street and South Street, Worthing.

### Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank 10 %  
Barclays 10 %  
BCCI 10 %  
Consolidated Crds 10 %  
C. Hoare & Co 10 %  
Lloyds Bank 10 %  
Midland Bank 10 %  
Nat Westminster 10 %  
TSB 10 %  
Williams & Glyn's 10 %

\* 7 day deposits on terms of overdraft, 10.5% on £10,000 or more, 11.5% on £5,000 or more, 12.5% on £1,000 or more, 13.5% on £500 or more, 14.5% on £100 or more, 15.5% on £50 or more, 16.5% on £20 or more, 17.5% on £10 or more, 18.5% on £5 or more, 19.5% on £2 or more, 20.5% on £1 or more, 21.5% on 50p or more, 22.5% on 20p or more, 23.5% on 10p or more, 24.5% on 5p or more, 25.5% on 2p or more, 26.5% on 1p or more, 27.5% on 0.5p or more, 28.5% on 0.2p or more, 29.5% on 0.1p or more, 30.5% on 0.05p or more, 31.5% on 0.02p or more, 32.5% on 0.01p or more, 33.5% on 0.005p or more, 34.5% on 0.002p or more, 35.5% on 0.001p or more, 36.5% on 0.0005p or more, 37.5% on 0.0002p or more, 38.5% on 0.0001p or more, 39.5% on 0.00005p or more, 40.5% on 0.00002p or more, 41.5% on 0.00001p or more, 42.5% on 0.000005p or more, 43.5% on 0.000002p or more, 44.5% on 0.000001p or more, 45.5% on 0.0000005p or more, 46.5% on 0.0000002p or more, 47.5% on 0.0000001p or more, 48.5% on 0.00000005p or more, 49.5% on 0.00000002p or more, 50.5% on 0.00000001p or more, 51.5% on 0.000000005p or more, 52.5% on 0.000000002p or more, 53.5% on 0.000000001p or more, 54.5% on 0.0000000005p or more, 55.5% on 0.0000000002p or more, 56.5% on 0.0000000001p or more, 57.5% on 0.00000000005p or more, 58.5% on 0.00000000002p or more, 59.5% on 0.00000000001p or more, 60.5% on 0.000000000005p or more, 61.5% on 0.000000000002p or more, 62.5% on 0.000000000001p or more, 63.5% on 0.0000000000005p or more, 64.5% on 0.0000000000002p or more, 65.5% on 0.0000000000001p or more, 66.5% on 0.00000000000005p or more, 67.5% on 0.00000000000002p or more, 68.5% on 0.00000000000001p or more, 69.5% on 0.000000000000005p or more, 70.5% on 0.000000000000002p or more, 71.5% on 0.000000000000001p or more, 72.5% on 0.0000000000000005p or more, 73.5% on 0.0000000000000002p or more, 74.5% on 0.0000000000000001p or more, 75.5% on 0.00000000000000005p or more, 76.5% on 0.00000000000000002p or more, 77.5% on 0.00000000000000001p or more, 78.5% on 0.000000000000000005p or more, 79.5% on 0.000000000000000002p or more, 80.5% on 0.000000000000000001p or more, 81.5% on 0.0000000000000000005p or more, 82.5% on 0.0000000000000000002p or more, 83.5% on 0.0000000000000000001p or more, 84.5% on 0.00000000000000000005p or more, 85.5% on 0.00000000000000000002p or more, 86.5% on 0.00000000000000000001p or more, 87.5% on 0.000000000000000000005p or more, 88.5% on 0.000000000000000000002p or more, 89.5% on 0.000000000000000000001p or more, 90.5% on 0.0000000000000000000005p or more, 91.5% on 0.0000000000000000000002p or more, 92.5% on 0.0000000000000000000001p or more, 93.5% on 0.00000000000000000000005p or more, 94.5% on 0.00000000000000000000002p or more, 95.5% on 0.00000000000000000000001p or more, 96.5% on 0.000000000000000000000005p or more, 97.5% on 0.000000000000000000000002p or more, 98.5% on 0.000000000000000000000001p or more, 99.5% on 0.0000000000000000000000005p or more, 100.5% on 0.0000000000000000000000002p or 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# La crème de la crème

building is £115,000 a year with lease expires in 45 years' time. Trust and Hiller Parker May &

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## General Appointments

# MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING IN THE NHS

£24,245

There are currently two Senior Medical Officer vacancies in the Division concerned with the organisation, planning and management of the National Health Service.

One post is for a doctor who has an interest in developing performance indicators and the analysis and interpretation of such information, with particular emphasis on the quality of care. There will also be responsibility for developing programmes for the management training of clinicians and overseeing research on clinical budgeting.

The second post will involve working, together with administrative and other professional colleagues, on reviewing and monitoring regional strategic plans, consideration of resource allocations, submission for capital development and closure of hospitals. The work will require

close liaison with NHS management in the Regions and Districts concerned.

Candidates must be medical practitioners fully registered in the UK and should preferably have: for the first post, experience in NHS management; for the second post, extensive NHS experience and, in particular, management experience.

For further information about these appointments, telephone Dr. Alison Smith on 01-407 5322 ext 6880.

Salary for these posts is £24,245 which includes £1250 Inner London Weighting.

For an application form (to be returned by 1 July 1983) write to Civil Service Commission, Alcon Link, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0245) 68531 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref: S/6003/3.

## Department of Health and Social Security

## Banking & Accountancy Appointments

### SWISS LIFE

#### Pensions Consultant

£12,000+

Swiss Life, which is Europe's largest mutual life office, and long established in the planning and insuring of employee benefit schemes on a multinational basis, has a vacancy for an experienced Consultant in its U.K. Office.

The position would offer excellent opportunities to a suitably experienced and qualified person, who would be expected to work on own initiative as part of a marketing team, based in London, which is concerned with:

- The presentation of Swiss Life's employee benefit services to prospective clients and intermediaries.
- Advice to new clients regarding the design and installation of new employee benefit plans.

The successful applicant is therefore likely to have some years experience in a similar capacity within a life office or consultancy and evidence of technical competence by way of a suitable professional qualification. An initial salary of not less than £12,000 is envisaged, depending upon experience and qualifications, together with an excellent mortgage and other benefits. Relocation expenses will be considered. Applicants should send brief career particulars, in confidence, to:

Mr. S. J. Rickard, F.P.M.I.

Swiss Life Insurance and Pensions Company,

9-12 Cheapside, London EC2V 6AL.

Tel. 01-236 3941.

#### APPOINTMENTS

A major economic organisation in the UK requires a research officer in economics with a university degree and excellent knowledge of Arabic and English languages, to be responsible for the preparation, analysis and editing of economic material and specialist directories in the field of trade and industry. Previous experience will be an advantage. Salary is negotiable on the basis of competence and experience. For further information please write to Box 025324 The Times, not later than two weeks from the date of this advertisement.

#### ENGLISH INSTRUCTORS

Graduates required to work with people in international company. Successful applicants will be trained as instructors of English as a foreign language. Please call 01-537 1587

#### ARE YOU COMMANDING £10,000+

If so, we may see you. We are recruiting other people's money for a professional career with a national financial brokerage based in W1. Must be well groomed and self-motivated. Age 25+. Tel. Melrose Hall 01-438 8431

#### INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

**GRADUATE (S) or POST GRADUATE (S)** Required by small, vibrant, rapidly expanding Japanese Business Services company in Tokyo and with branch offices in London and Manila. Administrative position (S) available primarily in Tokyo office. Willingness and ability to travel widely, sociable personality, broad-minded attitudes and communication essential. Japanese language ability unnecessary. No telephone enquiries, send CV to:

MARTIN LUNN, SUNWARD AGENCY LTD, 10 Charles St, London SW1

#### TEMPTING TIMES

**£4.10 ph** We have lots of work for experienced secretaries with speeds of 100/70 and a flexible approach. We particularly need to supplement our team with more electronic and money typewriters, who wish to use these skills in interesting and well-paid assignments throughout the West End and City.

Ring 437 1126, West End or 588 3535, City

Crone Corkill Recruitment Consultants

**TELEPHONIST AND TYPIST** Travel Co. Requirements: immediate start. Salary: £99 92/10 (gross) plus office costs.

**SHORT-TERM SECRETARY** required for London branch office. July cover. Must be experienced, efficient, non-unionist, motivated. Salary: £407 0/11.

**NON-SECRETARY** French/Spanish/Italian. Travel Co. Requirements: immediate start. Salary: £99 92/10 (gross) plus office costs.

## FINANCE DIRECTOR Building Materials Cambridge, c. £20K

An autonomous company in the U.K. and part of an International Group is seeking a Finance Director, 35 years +. This profitable market leader is capable of development by acquisition and diversification. The successful candidate must be a qualified Accountant who will direct and motivate efficient Finance and D.P. departments in addition to providing a corporate finance role to achieve the ambitious aims for the progressive development of the business.

Usual large company benefits: profit related bonus scheme, BUPA, etc. Applications with full CV in confidence to Mr Eric Monaghan, Managing Director

Ernert Building Products Ltd Whaddon Road, Meltham, Nr. Royston, Herts

### Accountant

Established and expanding Company based in South London and dealing in international trade is seeking a qualified Accountant. The successful candidate will have the ability to manage the double entry book-keeping system (most in the export/import trade) and to control the budgeting system. Additional responsibilities include preparing monthly financial reports, cash flow forecasts and producing the Company's yearly financial accounts. Applications should have a second educational background with broad based experience in accounting. April 30-35 years should have held a similar position in past employment, be prepared to give total commitment, have drive and initiative and be able to provide financial advice at senior level. Salary and benefits normally associated with this important position will be paid depending upon qualifications and experience. Written applications and full CVs should be made to: Box 01738 The Times

## NIPPON KANGYO KAKUMARU (EUROPE) LTD.

This Japanese securities company seeks one Eurobond Trader to join its small Eurobond team. Applications are invited from experienced traders aged between 25 to 35 years. Salary will be negotiable, but at an appropriate level according to age, experience and relevant qualifications. Applications should be made in writing only please to: Mr K. Nakada, Nippon Kangyo Kakumaru (Europe) Ltd., 5th Floor, Gardens House, 18 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7AT.

**ACCOUNTANT/ADMINISTRATOR** Worcester-based leading firm. Salary: £10,000-12,000. Full CVs to: 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 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